

<b>TODAY</b> <b>10P</b>	<b>OFFER</b> <b>FLYING SOUTH</b> 51 pairs of Virgin Atlantic tickets to Johannesburg to be won <b>TOKEN ONE AND DETAILS PAGE 40</b>	<b>THE PLEASURES OF HOUSEWORK</b> Some women are rediscovering the joys of buckets and mops <b>PAGE 17</b>	<b>14 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT</b> <b>ALL TECHNIQUE AND NO SOUL</b> Simon Barnes despairs for skating <b>PAGE 27</b> <b>PLUS</b> Newcastle save a point at Wimbledon <b>PAGE 29</b>	<b>TODAY</b> <b>10P</b>
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## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

### TODAY

Roger Boyes starts a new column on Europe from Bonn - **PAGE 14**



**TOMORROW**  
 Play to win with The Times Interactive Football

### WEDNESDAY



### THURSDAY

**Books for Easter**



John Habgood on the Oxford Dictionary of World Religion

Karen Armstrong on James, brother of Jesus  
**Plus: Last-minute travel bargains**



### SATURDAY

**Boy Wonder**

Leonardo di Caprio - a Romeo for the MTV generation  
**PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY**

## New Army code to end ban on gays

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines, which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality.

They want the Army Board to approve a new moral code under which only those individuals whose sexual activities can be shown to have a direct impact on a unit's operational effectiveness should face disciplinary action or administrative discharge.

"What we're talking about is sexual adventurism or overt sexuality, the kind of behaviour that can have a really bad effect on a unit," one Army source said.

Under the radical approach, gays and lesbians serving in the Army would not automatically face administrative discharge if exposed as homosexuals.

Although the proposed liberal code of conduct flies in the face of current Government policy, which still supports the ban on homosexuals, the new approach suggested by the senior Army officers is supported by top civil servants at the Ministry of Defence.

The change in attitude towards sexuality has been largely driven by the surge in legal cases involving homosexuals, lesbians and transsexuals who have been pursuing compensation claims in British and European courts.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said last week that a Labour government would lift the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

The senior civil servants believe the Armed Forces must prepare themselves for significant changes across the whole spectrum of personal and sexual behaviour to bring them more into line with the rest of society and ensure that they cannot be accused of any form of discrimination.

Apart from the "inevitable" lifting of the ban on homosexuality, they say the strict codes governing officers who commit adultery will also have to be changed, provided their actions do not interfere with operational effectiveness.

The Government's position on homosexuality is that it is incompatible with military life because of the close physical conditions in which servicemen and women have to work and live. It has

rigorously defended its policy in the High Court and Court of Appeal in a number of cases.

The Army's new moral code, expected to be completed before the end of the year, is likely to be far less proscriptive than the 1993 code, adopting a more sympathetic position on sexual orientation yet emphasising the importance of maintaining combat unity.

The 1993 code states that "anyone who admits to, displays the orientation of, or indulges in homosexuality, will be required to resign or be discharged". It also says that adultery, whether committed within the military community or outside, "is likely to prejudice the position of an individual and may bring the Army into disrepute".

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the new Chief of the General Staff, is known to be a pragmatic commander who is likely to give his approval to a more modern attitude towards sexual behaviour, although he has not yet sanctioned the radical stance being adopted by some of his senior officers.

Despite the belief at the top of the MoD civil service that changes in policy on homosexuality, adultery and other forms of sexual conduct are inevitable for all three Services, strong resistance remains in some parts of the ministry.

Royal Navy chiefs, in particular, are opposed to lifting the ban on homosexuality because they believe that in the close confines of a warship or submarine, the presence of known homosexuals would undermine morale and destroy operational effectiveness.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, has made his position clear to ministers and his staff: he is adamantly opposed to any lifting of the ban on homosexuals. One Navy source said: "Some people believe that because of all the court cases, there will have to be a change in the present position, but this is not the view of the First Sea Lord. He thinks the MoD should fight these issues all the way, even through to the European courts."

However, unlike the Army's present position on adultery, the Navy takes no action or interest in any relationship that takes place ashore when individuals are off duty. The Navy source said: "That's an entirely private matter. All we are worried about is what happens on board ship or at a naval establishment."

Lesbian investigator, page 2



Pete Goss and his wife, Tracey, embracing after he landed at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast yesterday

## French welcome British sea hero

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN LES SABLES D'OLONNE

FRANCE took Pete Goss to its heart yesterday when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people on a glorious spring afternoon.

Goss, 35, who finished in fifth place in the Vendée Globe and is the fastest Briton to sail round the world singlehanded with a time of 126 days and 21 hours, was overwhelmed by his reception at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved

in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized. Goss is to receive the Légion d'honneur for his heroism.

"It's impossible really," he said. "I've been in solitary confinement for four and a half months and I've just bounced back into humanity. It's extraordinary - I feel very, very emotional and I am very privileged."

As his 50ft yellow-hulled yacht *Aqua Quorum* was shepherded slowly into the harbour by a flotilla of spectator boats, Goss stood on the foredeck waving at the people standing up to 20 rows deep on the harbour walls to applaud him.

The self-effacing Cornishman, who sold his house and ran up debts of more than

£100,000 to take part in the race, could only mouth "this is just amazing," amid the din of boat horns, cheers, whistles and clapping.

When *Aqua Quorum* finally made it to the dock, Goss's wife, Tracey, was the first on board, enveloping him in hugs and kisses. Then came Philippe Jeantot, the race organiser, who has called Goss "the true hero of the Vendée Globe," and then his father Michael and mother Sally.

Next was Raphael Dinelli, whose life Goss saved in the Southern Ocean at Christmas when he turned *Aqua Quorum* into 70-knot winds and appalling seas to find the stricken

Continued on page 2, col 7

## More Hamas suicide attacks threatened

TENSION in the Middle East increased yesterday as violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank and Hamas threatened to launch more suicide attacks against Israeli targets. Four people, including the bomber, were killed in a crowded Tel Aviv café last week.

Hamas said Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, would not be able to crack down on its activities because it had an organisational structure in place and was ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Talks revived, page 10



## Hamilton 'accepted up to £60,000'

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

According to transcripts obtained by *The Times* the Egyptian-born businessman admitted to Sir Gordon Downey that he grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield. **Page 4**

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## Blair's CBI snub to unions

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
 POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown yesterday stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a high-level committee set up to prepare for Britain's presidency of the European Union in 1998.

In what will be seen as a further snub to the unions, Blair Turner, director general of the CBI, has been invited to serve on a special group that will plan ways of forcing the EU to open up more of its markets. Labour sources said that the unions would not be asked to serve on the committee.

The Shadow Chancellor hardened up his pre-election tax pledges by reaffirming to middle

and higher income earners that a Labour government would not raise the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the plan felt to have contributed severely to Labour's defeat in 1992.

The move came as it was disclosed that Mr Turner had been consulted on the contents of a separate manifesto, to be released alongside the main party manifesto, which will be aimed at winning the support of Britain's bosses.

Mr Brown also made plain that not all privatised utilities would pay Labour's proposed windfall tax. He said that while all the utility companies sold off by the Tories would be "eligible" for the tax, if they had not made excess profits they would not be liable. Mr Brown's remarks added to

speculation that the electricity and water companies will bear the brunt of the tax, while British Telecom will escape.

Kenneth Clarke will hit back at Labour's claims to be the party of business in interviews and at a press conference today.

The involvement of Mr Turner in the business manifesto preparation has added to suspicions among some union leaders that they are being sidelined, and that Mr Blair, rather than treating both sides of industry equally, is currently leaning towards the employers.

Labour sources admitted that with the CBI being a key player in the business and government working group on the British

Continued on page 2, col 5

TV & RADIO ..... 46, 47  
 WEATHER ..... 24  
 CROSSWORDS ..... 24, 48

LETTERS ..... 21  
 OBITUARIES ..... 23  
 PETER RIDDELL ..... 20

ARTS ..... 18, 19  
 CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 38  
 COURT & SOCIAL ..... 22

BUSINESS ... 43-46, 48  
 SPORT ..... 25-38  
 LAW REPORT ..... 39

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British nominees suffer big-night nerves at thought of saying thank you in front of 2 billion people

# Unknown faces bask in Oscar night limelight

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CINEMA history has been made by a little-known woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar.

She is one of 31 Britons to be nominated for the awards, which will be announced at the annual ceremony tonight. She was chosen for the music she wrote for *Emma*. Her score was inspired by folk music and aimed to support the dialogue "without telling everyone when to laugh". Her other credits include Steve Barron's *Pinocchio*, Norman Jewison's romantic comedy *Only You* and numerous television dramas.

The number of Britons nominated for Oscars this year has almost doubled since 1996. Out of 24 categories, Britons have a starring role in 18 of them.

Portman, 36, from Haslemere, Surrey, nominated for best original musical or comedy score, began composing at

the age of 14. She turned to film when her tutor at Oxford warned her that she would not make it as a "serious" classical composer because her music was too melodic.

Her career began when she wrote a score for a film called *Privileged*, about Oxford students, which was sold to the BBC. It starred Hugh Grant, Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. She sent a tape to Alan Parker, who passed it to Sir David Puttnam, who asked Portman to rescore a Channel 4 film, *Experience Preferred But Not Essential*.

"I don't feel I'm a female composer, just a composer," Portman said. Every film she takes on requires a different compositional style. Yet, she believes that her personality emerges through each one, "in the way I shape melodies, probably also the harmonies I lean towards".

Other unsung heroes of British cinema have also flown into Los Angeles, intent

on having a good time. Among the craftsmen joining the Oscar party circuit for the first time are Tim Harvey, the production designer of Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, which is up for four awards. "It feels unreal, not the sort of thing that happens to me," he said.

Also nominated for their work on *Hamlet* are Patrick Doyle for original dramatic score and Alexandra Byrne for costume design. Byrne said that choosing an outfit for the ceremony had been "a nightmare". Asked why she had not made something special herself, she explained that she cannot sew. She trained as an architect and did a post-graduate theatre design course: "I gradually made the crossover".

Stuart Craig, production designer on *The English Patient* (nominated for the art direction award) has been nominated five times before, winning for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Gandhi*. Even so, he described the ceremony as nerve-racking.

"It's a hugely publicised television show," he said. "If you are a backroom boy, you're not used to that. If you win, you're talking to 2 billion people around the world. I'm not sure I want to talk to 2 billion people."

But one person who will not be going to the party — although his work has been indirectly recognised with a nomination — is Ivan Sharrack, the production sound mixer on *The English Patient*. He worked on only the last third of the film, and the man who worked on the other two thirds then had to hand over because of other work commitments — Chris Newman, an American — will be going instead. Sharrack said yesterday: "It's a little hard, but there are no sour grapes. I already have won an Oscar, for *The Last Emperor*, and a Bafta, for *The French Lieutenant's Woman*."

"It feels as if the lunatics have taken over the asylum," said Minghella, hot favourite

Rachel Portman, nominated for her score for *Emma*. She began composing for films after being told she would never be a serious composer

## Tea at the beach for foreign invasion force

FROM GILES WHITTILL, IN LOS ANGELES AND GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S Oscar nominees rolled down to the beach in a convoy of limousines on Saturday to soothe their nerves with tea and scones before tonight's prize-giving ritual turns them into winners and runners-up.

In a cavernous ballroom yards from the sands of Santa Monica, Kristin Scott Thomas, who has been nominated as best actress for her performance in *The English Patient*, made quiet conversation. Marianne Jean-Baptiste, nominated as best supporting actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, disclosed that she had borrowed diamonds to deck herself out for the ceremony, and the director Anthony Minghella patted everyone on the back for a British invasion of Hollywood.

"It feels as if the lunatics have taken over the asylum," said Minghella, hot favourite

to be named best director for his *The English Patient*. Low-budget independent films have swamped the big studios, with four out of five nominees for the award for best picture being made without the help of Tinseltown.

Ralph Fiennes, one of *The English Patient*'s 12 nominees, was a notable absentee from Bafta's annual pre-Oscar tea party, held at a hotel decorated in appropriately colonial style but sponsored by an American airline. The actor's co-star was a guest of honour. "I always ignored the fact that the cinema is a big, nasty industry," Scott Thomas said, dressing down in sandals and plain beige trousers.

"Now I've been thrown into an arena I never really recognised — but at least my market-value has gone up," Scott Thomas may be up



Jean-Baptiste: named for supporting role

against four rivals for the title of best actress, but in the fashion world, hers is the only name that counts.

The British star is the worn every international designers want to dress. Fashion shows are one thing, but endorsement from a film-star at the Oscars carries more weight. Scott Thomas — tall, chic, talented, tasteful — is

their ideal clothes horse. "Everyone wanted to dress her," confirms her publicist, adding tantalisingly: "It's going to be a French designer."

But which one? Scott Thomas, who lives in Paris, appears to have visited every couture house in the city. When she appeared in the front row of John Galiano's show for Christian Dior, the deal seemed signed and sealed.

Not so, reveals a Dior spokeswoman. It is a similar story at Givenchy and Chanel.

The obvious contenders having ruled themselves — unless this is a case of elaborate double-bluff — attention turns to less likely candidates. Scott Thomas wore one of Christian Lacroix's creations for a *Vanity Fair* shoot last year. Could he be in with a chance? "We know she has tried some Lacroix dresses," said a spokeswoman. "But she has also gone to all the other couture houses." In the meantime, Brenda

Blethyn, who has been nominated as best actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, has plumped for Armani, for her Oscars outfit, — as has half of Hollywood. Emily Watson, who has been nominated for the same award, for *Breaking The Waves*, will wear a dress by the British designer Amanda Wakeley. Jean-Baptiste will be wearing a Gianni Versace dress.

One Briton whose head has definitely not been turned by Hollywood, despite the growing admiration for his work from aspiring directors there, is Mike Leigh, whose *Secrets and Lies* has been nominated as best picture. As is customary with Leigh, who has been nominated as best director, the film was created entirely through improvisation. "I have no plans to move here or work here," Leigh said.

"There are a thousand places I would rather make a film about than Los Angeles,"

Alexandra Byrne with Kate Winslet on the set of *Hamlet*

## Cab driver has a fare night out in Paris

BY ADAM FRESKO

A TAXI driver waiting on the rank at Heathrow Airport picked up the fare of a lifetime when a businessman ran out saying he had missed his flight to Paris.

Dave Coombs, 41, from Romford, east London, knew that at 9.30pm the man did not have time to catch the last Eurostar or coach from Victoria, so he offered to take him to Dover. "The man was worried that there wouldn't be transport at the other end and asked me to take him all the way to Paris," he said.

"It's a job you dream about, but I had no idea how much it would cost. I asked some guys on the radio. Some were saying £500 or £600 if it was on the meter, which was too expensive for him. In the end I settled for £300 and he paid all the travelling expenses."

"I phoned my wife and told her to get my passport ready. When I got home I offered him something to eat but he just stayed in the cab. It was a round trip of 580 miles, but it was good fun. He got to his important meeting and I got a nice evening out."

## Boy stowaway found dead in jet from Kenya

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick yesterday. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft that had arrived from Nairobi.

He is believed to have frozen or suffocated to death as the plane flew at temperatures as low as -60F and an altitude of 32,000ft. Police searched beneath the flightpath for other stowaways who might have been accompanying the boy.

It is believed that the child clambered aboard the aircraft minutes before take-off from Nairobi and was trapped in the nosewheel bay before landing when the hydraulic system for lowering the wheels caught him by the legs. He suffered no apparent injuries. He was certified dead at the scene and a post-mortem examination is to be held.

Inspector Peter Cooper, of Sussex Police, said: "One can only guess at what spurred him into doing something so dangerous."

A spokesman for Surrey ambulance service said: "This looks like a tragic case of

misadventure. At the cruising altitude of this aircraft, the temperature could be as low as -60F and the oxygen level would be insufficient to sustain life."

The spokesman said that the emergency services had suspected that the boy had been accompanied because he was so young.

"It would be quite unusual for a boy of eight to stow away and fly to Britain on his own. It is likely there were others with him, possibly older children, and the fear is that they have fallen from the plane during its flight."

Last October two brothers stowed away in the wheel bay of a jumbo jet on a ten-hour journey from Delhi to London. Pardeep Saini was able to cling to the wheel as the plane landed at Heathrow, but his brother, Vijay, 18, died after falling out over Richmond, southwest London.

A spokeswoman for British Airways said that an investigation had been launched into the boy's death. "Safety is paramount to British Airways and we take this incident very seriously," she said.

## Pilot is grounded in drink alarm

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT who allegedly flew an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol is being investigated after being ordered to land by alarmed air traffic controllers.

The 63-year-old pilot was escorted from the four-seater plane at Southampton airport after an erratic landing in which he was said to have swerved off the runway and almost hit a fence.

The man refused to give a breath test to police, but was seen by a police surgeon who confirmed that he had been drinking. His keys were confiscated and he was released pending an inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The man, from Denham, Buckinghamshire, had been flying to Jersey when he strayed into London air space on Friday. Air traffic controllers at Heathrow contacted the aircraft, but were concerned with the response they received from the pilot. A CAA spokesman said: "We are looking into it." The man could be charged with endangering aircraft or with endangering people on the ground.

## Duchess's home on market for £3m

BY KATHERINE BERGEN

THE six-bedroom former home of Sarah, Duchess of York, goes on the market today for £3 million, or nearest offer.

Unable to afford the monthly rent of £6,000 for the house, Kingsbourne, on the Wentworth estate in Sunningdale, she has returned to her former marital home near by with the Duke of York.

The duchess removed all her personal effects in a pantomime two weeks ago, but signs of the family linger. Lady and Barclay, her two dalmatians, are still at Kingsbourne, as are their feeding bowls.

The house where the duchess confided in Ruby Wax last



Six-bedroom Kingsbourne is in need of some renovation

year has hundreds of nail holes bearing witness to the countless photographs she put on the walls.

On the first floor, the duchess had a three-room suite with bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. Centrepiece of

her boudoir was a divan bed made by the London Bedding Centre of Sloane Street. The labels on the drawers have gone, but the wardrobes still appear to bear the marks of the duchess's categorisation system. The bathroom was

remodelled by the duchess in black and white, with a huge shower and tripartite bath. This is where she kept her vast collection of essential oils and bath products.

The children's room are painted in yellow and white checks, although the whole house is in need of renovation. The paint is flaking from the window sills in the duchess's bedroom. The 12-acre garden where she played tennis and swam with her daughters is likely to be one of the main attractions for buyers.

There is one other reminder of the duchess which will have to be dealt with before the agents Hamptons and Knight Frank can close the sale — the stack of her post which waits in the hall.

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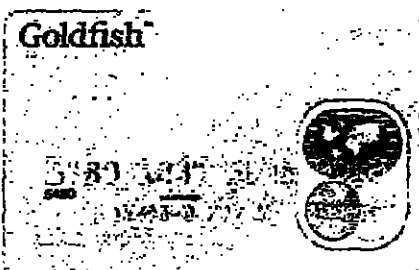
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# Disagreement on format puts TV debate in jeopardy



BY PHILIP WEBSTER  
AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE much-heralded election debate between John Major and Tony Blair was in the balance last night after the Conservatives accepted the format proposed by the broadcasters but Labour hardened their objections to it.

The Labour leadership made plain that in today's negotiations between the parties and the BBC and ITV it would insist on audience participation in the debate. However Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Labour wanted to pull the plug because it feared that Mr Blair

would crack under tough questioning. There were strong signs last night that Lord Irvine of Lairg, Mr Blair's negotiator, would take a tough line in today's talks. Apart from saying the audience should be allowed to question the leaders, he will also back the right of Paddy Ashdown to an equal hearing, putting another obstacle in the way.

Although Labour says it wants a debate, it sees no reason in giving it to the Conservatives on their terms. Labour believes that Mr Major is pressing for the confrontation now as a desperate measure to try to bite into the Labour lead. It believes that with Mr Major trailing so far behind in the polls, a draw would be

a good result for him in the debate and sees no reason why Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown should bend over to accept the Conservative rules of engagement.

There is also irritation at the broadcasters for accepting the broad Conservative terms in their eagerness to stage what would be an historic electoral event. But Dr Mawhinney said yesterday that the Conservatives had accepted the "fundamental principles" of proposals from the broadcasters.

He said: "So far as we are concerned there is no reason for the debate now not to go ahead." Dr Mawhinney said the broadcasters agreed the main focus should be

head-to-head debate between the two main leaders, that it should be of sufficient length to be a true test and that Mr Ashdown should be included on a "fair basis". The debate should be conducted with dignity and not descend to a "bear-pit atmosphere".

Although Dr Mawhinney's statement did not say it, the Times will today argue for two 90-minute debates. They accept there should be an audience in the studio but that there should not be audience participation.

There were also signs yesterday that the BBC is losing patience. Senior BBC executives feared that the broadcasters were being used as

pawns in a point-scoring match between Labour and the Tories and had considered calling off negotiations. Labour's announcement last week that it wanted audience participation in the debate was regarded as another late attempt to move the goalposts, despite the fact that discussions about a possible debate have been taking place since January.

A source said: "The formats will have to be finalised by Thursday of this week to have a fighting chance of going ahead. After Thursday we are into Easter."

The debates are provisionally scheduled for April 13, 20, or 27. That means the first debate will

happen two weeks after Easter Sunday. For this to happen everything must be agreed and finalised by this week otherwise it becomes impossible to organise things in time.

Today representatives of the three parties will meet Marion Bowman, deputy controller of factual programmes for the ITV Network.

There are also plans for a meeting with Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC. Michael Dobbs, the thriller writer and former Tory party deputy chairman, will represent Mr Major. Mr Ashdown has appointed Lord Holme of Cheltenham as his negotiator.

## Al Fayed kept no record of alleged payments to MPs

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, kept no record of his payments to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

It emerged yesterday that in his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary standards commissioner who is investigating the affair, Mr Al Fayed appears to have grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield.

Transcripts obtained by *The Times* of Mr Al Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry disclose that he did not keep records of his alleged cash payments to MPs. Challenged directly by the inquiry about the amount of money he gave MPs, he replied: "It is really difficult to remember this. Hamilton maybe took £40,000, £50,000 or £60,000. Smith maybe about £10,000."

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister in October 1994, ten days after the Prime Minister was told about the undeclared transactions, has told Sir Gordon that he received between £18,000 and £25,000.

Mr Al Fayed bitterly criticised Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, who were endorsed as election candidates by their Conservative associations at the weekend. He told Sir Gordon: "People like that have no dignity, no honour; they will sell their mothers for money."

The new disclosures came as the Government voiced hopes that the sleaze controversy would subside. One Tory MP, Richard Shepherd, backed calls for Parliament to be recalled to enable the Downey report to be considered. But there were signs that Labour, as well as Tory lead-

ers, was trying to move attention to campaign issues. One Labour source said that sleaze had overshadowed several topics the party had hoped to highlight last week.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be happy for Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith to visit his constituency during the campaign, adding: "I would go to both of their constituencies and campaign for them, because in Britain we have a rather quaint idea of justice: you're innocent until you're proved guilty."

Alison Foster, a trainee solicitor who told a Sunday



Foster: question over her legal future

newspaper that she had put cash for Mr Hamilton into envelopes while a personal assistant to Mr Al Fayed, may face questions about her future career in the legal world. Mr Hamilton, in a submission to Sir Gordon, has asked whether she is suitable to be a solicitor having admitted taking part "in illicit activities".

In his evidence to Sir Gordon, Mr Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, is also highly critical of Sir Andrew Bowden, the MP for Brighton Kemp-

town, to whom he was introduced by the lobbyist Ian Greer. Sir Andrew is being investigated by Sir Gordon after admitting receiving £5,300 from Mr Greer for his constituency fighting fund. He has denied being paid £5,000 by Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Al Fayed maintained that he had given the money to Sir Andrew, and that the MP had telephoned the day next day to increase his demand. The relationship was ended.

Mr Al Fayed, who recruited Mr Greer to help him to overturn a report by the Department of Trade and Industry into his takeover of Harrods, which had called him a liar and a cheat, told the Downey inquiry that he felt "disgust" that MPs were prepared to accept financial inducements to do his bidding.

But under cross-examination he was unable to match the date of the alleged payment to Mr Hamilton with questions the MP had asked about the House of Fraser in the Commons. He was also questioned about the introduction of crucial new witnesses on the eve of the libel trial against *The Guardian* in September 1996, two years after the newspaper had published its original cash-for-questions allegations. Having always maintained he had paid the MPs himself, or through Mr Greer, he claimed days before the trial was due to begin that his secretaries, Ms Foster and Iris Bond, had "stuffed envelopes full of cash". Mr Al Fayed told Sir Gordon: "I am 64. Your memory goes and you cannot remember everything." But he insisted that he had not confused payments to Mr Hamilton, who has denied receiving money from him: "How, if I gave him the money with my own hands?"



Tony Blair talked to more than 100 of his party's prospective parliamentary candidates in marginal seats on a conference telephone link from his home in Islington, north London, yesterday. "We are doing well, but it

is important that we are never complacent, that we continue to persuade people of the case not just against the Conservatives but for today's Labour Party," he said. The exercise will be repeated several times.

## Women ignored by all parties, study says

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE three main political parties are ignoring the views of women, according to a report published today.

Politicians are failing to address the specific concerns of women, as well as refusing to take on board their opinions on mainstream issues. The conclusion comes in a report called *What Women Want on Politics* in which the views of almost 10,000 women are compared to policies.

With 15 million more women voters than men, the authors claim that women could have a key impact on the general election on May 1. The report, carried out by the Women's Communication Centre, a campaign group formed two years ago to promote female perspectives on political debate, says that key women's issues are sidelined by the parties. They include decent childcare measures, domestic violence, part-time workers' rights, low and equal pay, support for carers, breast cancer research, removing VAT on sanitary protection.

At the same time, the report says, women's views on mainstream issues are ignored. For example, while the parties concentrate on combating unemployment, women are more concerned with equal pay, access to pensions, flexible hours and parental leave. On Europe, women are more concerned with social rights and protection than a single currency or sovereignty.

The report also finds that women are more prepared to accept higher taxes to fund extra education, health and pensions than their male counterparts. The report is being sent to all sitting MPs and prospective candidates in marginal seats.

Almost one in three women have not yet decided how to vote, according to a MORI poll.

## Veteran MPs not to stand

Labour Party chiefs are to draw up shortlists of potential candidates to replace two veteran MPs who have announced their retirement.

Doug Hoyle, 67, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said he would not contest Warrington North, where he has a majority of 12,622. Norman Hogg, 59, a former deputy chief whip, said he would not fight Cumberland and Kilsyth, where he has a 9,215 majority.

Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, and Mike Watson — whose constituencies are disappearing — are frontrunners for the two seats.

## Labour signs football clubs

Labour will unveil plans today to set up homework centres at Premiership football clubs "to help to raise children's literacy standards. Pupils who are having trouble in class will be encouraged to do their homework at the clubs after school before playing a game of football, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will say. Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Arsenal have joined the scheme and will help to set up pilot study support centres.

## Muslims urged to take part

A leading Muslim body has condemned Islamic extremists who have called on the Muslim community to take no part in the election. The Muslim College, headed by Dr Zaki Badawi, a well-known moderate, has advised that all Muslims should take part. "Taking part is a religious as well as a civic duty," the college says in a document published today. "The consequences will affect all of us and to remain aloof can be regarded as a lack of concern for the community."

## PM's wife fears ignominious exit

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMA MAJOR called yesterday for an end to the "ignominious" tradition under which an ousted Prime Minister is forced to leave Downing Street within hours of his defeat at the polls.

While she insisted that John Major was going to win the election, the Prime Minister's wife said any departing leader should be able to leave with dignity. Unlike other world leaders, British Prime Ministers are hustled out of their offices on the day they lose the election. If Labour wins in the early hours of May 2, Mr Major would be likely to deliver his resignation to the Queen in the morning and be out of Downing Street by early

afternoon. The speed of departure has led to embarrassing moments for men who until hours before were running the country. Sir Edward Heath was left homeless in 1974 and forced to live in an aide's flat for several months. Harold Wilson was reduced to sneaking his possessions out the back of Downing Street in 1970.

In the United States, ousted Presidents have several months between their defeat and their successors' installation. In Canada and New Zealand, Prime Ministers have about a week to pack their bags.

In a newspaper interview Mrs Major said she believed the Tories would win. But she expressed concern at the way Prime Ministers' were removed. "One is hustled out rather ignominiously, which

I think is shameful," she said. "I don't think that any incoming Prime Minister actually would expect the outgoing Prime Minister to disappear by lunchtime the next day."

She added: "I think someone should take a grip of the situation. I mean no outgoing Prime Minister is going to want to cling on. You want to make a fairly smart move. But one should be able to do it with dignity."

An explanation emerged yesterday for Mrs Major's downbeat appearance during the early days of the election campaign. She has been spending time looking after her mother, who is suffering from cancer. In her interview she said: "She has cancer but we think she is on the mend."

## Tories may lose Fleet Street allies

BY CAROL MIDGLEY



Rothermere spoke of *Mail's* independence

JOHN MAJOR suffered another setback yesterday when it was reported that Associated Newspapers had tempered its traditionally staunch support for the Tory party.

Lord Rothermere, chairman of the group that publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*, was quoted as saying: "I don't think we will actually endorse anybody. I don't believe in newspapers supporting parties. The proper duty is to report what happens. The *Daily Mail* is

independent. It has always embraced the policy of the Tories because the policy of the Labour Party was not acceptable." Lord Rothermere told the *Independent on Sunday*, adding that this time, however, "we have two political parties with policies not terribly different, the difference being the question of credibility."

Only the opposition of the *Daily Mail's* Editor, Paul Dacre, was said to have stopped the paper backing Mr Blair. He is said to have argued that this would anger diehard Tory readers. The

*Evening Standard* might support Labour, Lord Rothermere hinted.

Last night, Peter Wright, the deputy editor of the *Daily Mail*, said that his newspaper "will be reporting the campaigns of all the parties with its usual vigour. Only when we have a full picture of what the parties have to offer will we consider offering our readers advice on voting preferences."

Last week Mr Major lost another former ally, *The Sun*, which declared on the front page its conversion to Mr Blair's new Labour.

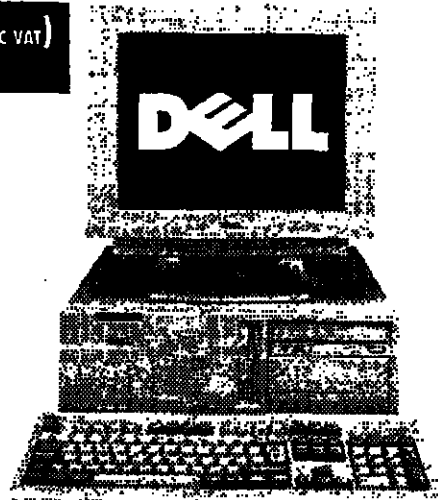
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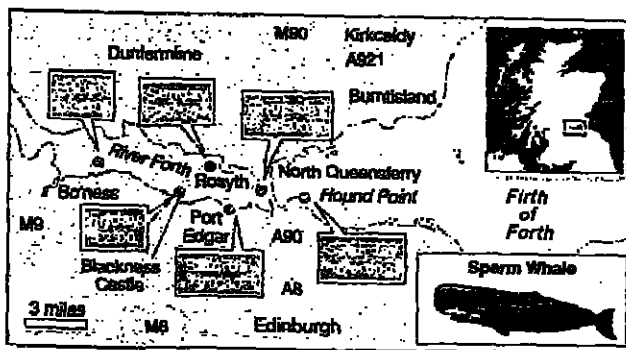
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# Fate of stranded whale hinges on high tide



By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of sightseers armed with binoculars, cameras and telescopes lined both banks of the River Forth yesterday to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to the safety of the deep ocean.

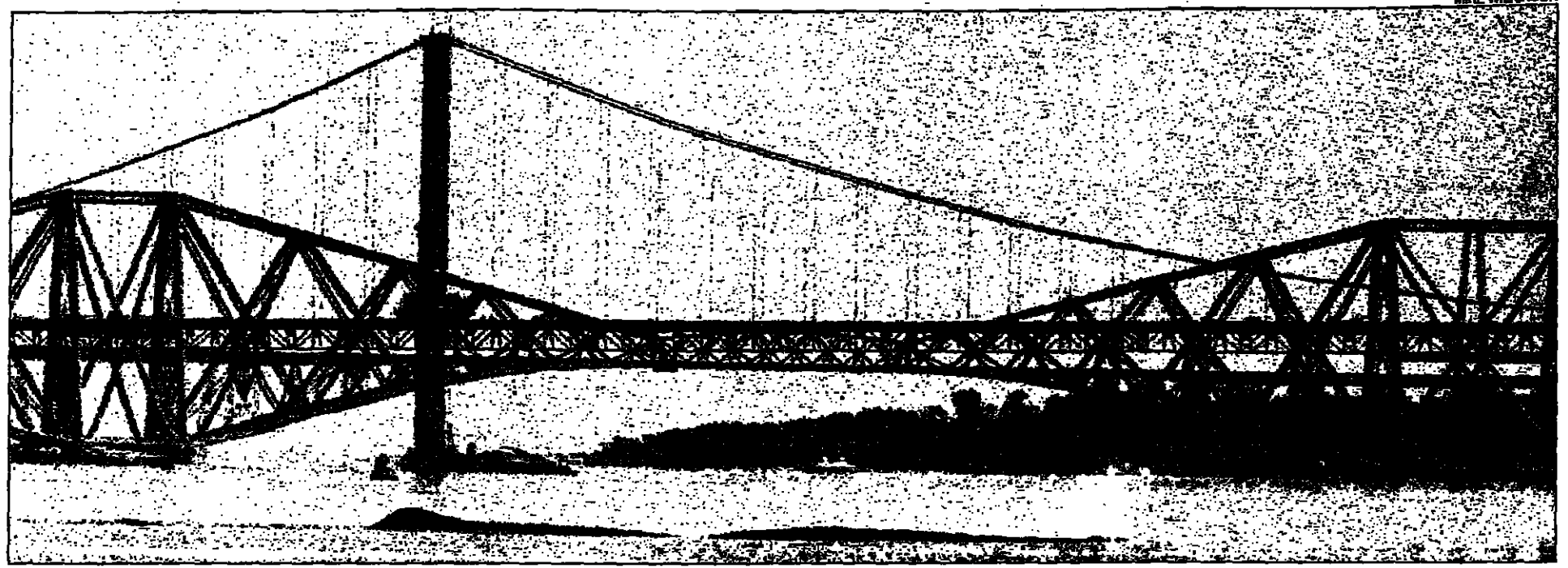
There was a carnival atmosphere in North and South Queensferry as hundreds of sightseers from all over Scotland caught a glimpse of the first sperm whale in the Forth for 20 years.

In the river, which was calm in the bright March sunshine, a mammoth operation involving 11 boats, the Ministry of Defence, Force Navigation, British Petroleum, the Coastguard, the Forth Road and Railbridge Operators and the police was underway to pre-

vent the whale beaching on the banks of the Forth.

The rescue attempt was masterminded by Deep Sea World, the marine centre and aquarium based on the banks of the Forth at North Queensferry. Divers and marine biologists at the centre were optimistic that with the help of the strong spring tide they could force the 40-ton whale out to the relative safety of the North Sea. But they will not know for certain until today whether they have been successful.

Yesterday's attempt was the third in three days to persuade the whale, nicknamed Moby by locals, to join a pod of four other sperm whales waiting for it off the coast of Burntisland in Fife. Keith



The whale had to pass beneath the Forth bridges to reach the deeper waters of the North Sea, but last night was stranded on a sandbank. Rescuers hoped the tide would move it

Todd, curator of Deep Sea World and the man coordinating the rescue, said the whale was causing a great deal of concern. "If it beaches, it is in serious trouble. The whale has become confused by the shape of the Firth of Forth, the high level of shipping activity and the traffic on both Forth

bridges. The strong spring tides have also caused some problems."

Last night the whale appeared to become stuck on a shell of sandbank beyond the bridges not far from the open sea. Dr Todd said it was a small setback, but he was not overly concerned. "The whale

is likely to get off with the floodtide and we will be keeping the MoD boat and the BP tug in the area until it refloats."

The sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, has evolved to live in deep water so effectively that it is in danger of stranding whenever it moves inshore. As

soon as it is unsupported by the water its massive weight crushes its internal organs giving would-be rescuers little chance of helping it.

The whale in the Forth is believed to have lost its bearings during its annual migration from the Arctic to the Azores. It lives on giant squid,

fish and octopus and there is very little for it to eat in the Forth. But conservationists say that it is in much greater danger of stranding than of starving.

By 5.30pm yesterday the flotilla of boats, including three BP tugs which normally cost £20,000 per day to oper-

ate, the Maid of the Forth, a commercial ferry, the MoD launch, a coastguard vessel and a Forth road bridge safety vessel, had pushed the whale beyond the Forth bridges.

Shipping in the river, the second busiest waterway in Britain after the English channel, was reduced.

## Governors sack disciplinarian girls' school head

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMISTRESS who imposed a uniform code on her staff has been sacked by governors after teachers and parents lost confidence in her strict leadership style.

Yvonne Graham, described as a disciplinarian by parents, took charge of the all-girl Clifton High School in Bristol, four years ago. She caused a stir after she arrived at the successful independent school by insisting that all male staff wore white shirts and ties and by banning the female teachers from wearing trousers.

Mrs Graham also drew criticism from parents at the £8,500-a-year school for clamping down firmly on a traditional end-of-term prank by sixth formers last summer. Greg Cairns, president of the school council, the governing body, said yesterday: "There was a loss of confidence among a large group of parents and staff. All sorts of things can give rise to that."

"It was not a personality clash per se, and it wasn't a matter of conduct or capability. There is no one single issue which gave rise to the loss of confidence. This decision was reached after some time and with enormous re-

gret. Mrs Graham is a very capable lady, certainly in terms of skills as a headmistress. There was nothing wrong with that."

He would not comment further on the reasons for her dismissal. In her short time at the school, A-level grades rose from an average 21.6 points per pupil in 1995 to 23.7 last summer. A consistent 99 per cent of girls achieved five or more top-grade GCSEs.

Mrs Graham, who married an Army officer and has two grown-up sons, was formerly head of Lavant House School in Chichester, and arrived in January last year at Clifton, where old girls include Jo Durie, the tennis player, and Sara Keays, former secretary of Lord Parkinson, who was then a Conservative Cabinet Minister.

Parents were said to be concerned about Mrs Graham's strict regime and, in particular, a "heavy-handed" response to a sixth-form stunt last May. Dozens of girls dressed up as nuns for a fancy-dress prank, but found themselves suspended and sent home for the day by Mrs Graham.

Mrs Graham was unavailable for comment yesterday.

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# BALLOT 97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 10. Employment

## Argument centres on Labour's approach to the job

EVEN with unemployment falling and the number of jobs growing, poll evidence suggests that jobs and the number of people out of work will be a key factor in the election. Though the main parties are close on a range of economic issues, the labour market is an area of sharp political division.

Conservatives support continuing and indeed greater deregulation of the labour market. A jobs market hindered by as few regulations as possible is one in which unemployment will fall, and employment will grow, they argue. Labour and the Liberal Democrats, which have only slight policy differences, believe in greater intervention in the labour market through some degree of regulation and through government measures to improve skills and to create jobs for the young and the long-term unemployed. Jobs, in their view,

will come through the better economic growth produced by a more skilled workforce and regulation will provide a floor of minimum employment standards to protect people at work.

In the election, the argument over jobs will focus on a handful of Labour policies, rather than the Conservatives' jobs record since 1979. Labour is proposing to introduce a statutory national minimum wage, to end the opt-out from the social chapter of the European Union's Maastricht treaty, and to pass legislation requiring employers to recognise trade unions for collective bargaining if a majority of their workforce wants it. Tony Blair insists, however, that there will be no return to compulsory union membership under the closed shop system of the 1960s and 1970s.

In addition, Labour is proposing a one-off windfall tax on the profits

of privatised utilities to fund a new programme which will guarantee a job, community service or training place to 250,000 young people on the dole. The windfall levy will also pay for a £75-per-week subsidy to employers who offer jobs to the long-term unemployed. Labour's quid pro quo for this job creation will be tougher measures to withdraw benefits from people who refuse offers of training or jobs.

Labour claims that such combinations of carrots and sticks have been effective in putting people back to work in Australia and several American states. The Tories do not reject the principle of in-work benefits and employment subsidies — they have launched several pilot programmes along the same lines — but they argue that Labour's blanket approach will prove costly, could encourage employers to sack workers to take

#### THE POLITICS

advantage of the subsidies, and will waste money by paying for jobs that would have been created even without the state handouts.

The Conservatives see inward investment by foreign companies as a clear indicator of the success of their deregulation strategy, though inward investors rarely cite employment conditions as the prime reason for their location decisions. Since 1979, inward-investor companies have provided or guaranteed 790,000 jobs.

Labour counters that the Conservatives' policy of job market deregulation has led directly to widespread feelings of work insecurity, undermining the social benefits of the reduction in unemployment since 1992. Economists are debating, however, how exten-

sive such job insecurity actually is. Europe is central to all these arguments. In parallel with the project in the 1990s to create a single market, the European Commission sought to protect employees with new regulatory initiatives. The Maastricht treaty's social chapter, an agreement on ways to process new job regulations is the latest of these. So far the social chapter directives have covered fairly innocuous issues such as parental leave, but the Tories claim that other, more contentious, policies could be added to the social chapter if the UK signed up. Ministers claim that abandoning the UK's opt-out from the social chapter will lead to the loss of at least half a million jobs, and will damage precisely the competitive advantage that has seen inward-investor companies coming to the UK, rather than other EU states.

The Conservatives argue that Europe's persistently high unemployment and poor job creation performance are direct results of its over-regulated labour market, and contrast sharply with the falling unemployment and accelerating employment growth of the United States, whose labour market is seen as highly deregulated and flexible.

Labour's plans for a minimum wage have nothing to do with the social chapter, though they are often thought to be connected. The key issue, on which Labour has been studiously silent, is the level at which the minimum wage would be set. If the wage were set at a very low level, such as £2.50 an hour, it would have little impact, but would leave Labour's trade union supporters dissatisfied. If it were set at £3.50 or higher, some economists believe that hundreds of thousands of unskilled jobs could be de-

stroyed. Others point out, however, that the US has a national minimum wage, which has not prevented it from generating millions of jobs for unskilled workers.

The Tories see old Labour, and especially the unions, lurking in the minimum wage and union recognition proposals. But Labour insists that the main purpose of the minimum wage is to prevent employers from exploiting the welfare system by underpaying their workers and forcing them to claim government benefits.

As for the unions, they are unlikely to play an important part in the electoral debate about employment. In 1979, they had a central role in the election. Now they are rarely mentioned, even by the Tories: a demonstration of the way the political argument has shifted from industrial relations to the creation of jobs.

## Pay gap has grown with demand for new skills

IN 1979, total employment in Britain stood at 25.5 million. In February 1997, it was 26.1 million — a net job growth over the Conservative years of 655,000. In 1979, unemployment had risen to 1.2 million. Now it stands at 1.8 million, 659,500 higher, even after falling fairly constantly for the past four years.

On such stark, simple facts, one judgment of Britain's jobs record under the Conservatives can be reached — that the UK's job performance has been indifferent at best.

However, recalling the employment issues on which the 1979 election was largely fought — Britain's industrial relations performance and the disruptive role of the trade unions — the record over the past 18 years has been an unqualified success.

With 13.3 million employees in trade unions in 1979, Britain lost 29.5 million working days through strikes. Now, with union membership down to 60 per cent of its 1979 level and still falling despite the recent recovery of employment itself, strikes are all but unknown in the private sector, and the number of days lost through strikes last year was just over a million, only 4 per cent of its 1979 total. Not for nothing is usually cited as the Conservative Government's most significant achievement.

But to choose industrial peace, or the number of jobs, as the sole measure of the Conservative employment record is to belie the shifting complexities that characterise the British labour market. Between the start and the possible endpoint of the Tory period there have been a number of other important changes which make Britain's labour market today significantly different from the way it was when Margaret Thatcher took office.

Labour markets do not change in isolation, and the transformations of the British labour market have taken place against the background of two fundamental and linked trends which have af-

#### THE RECORD

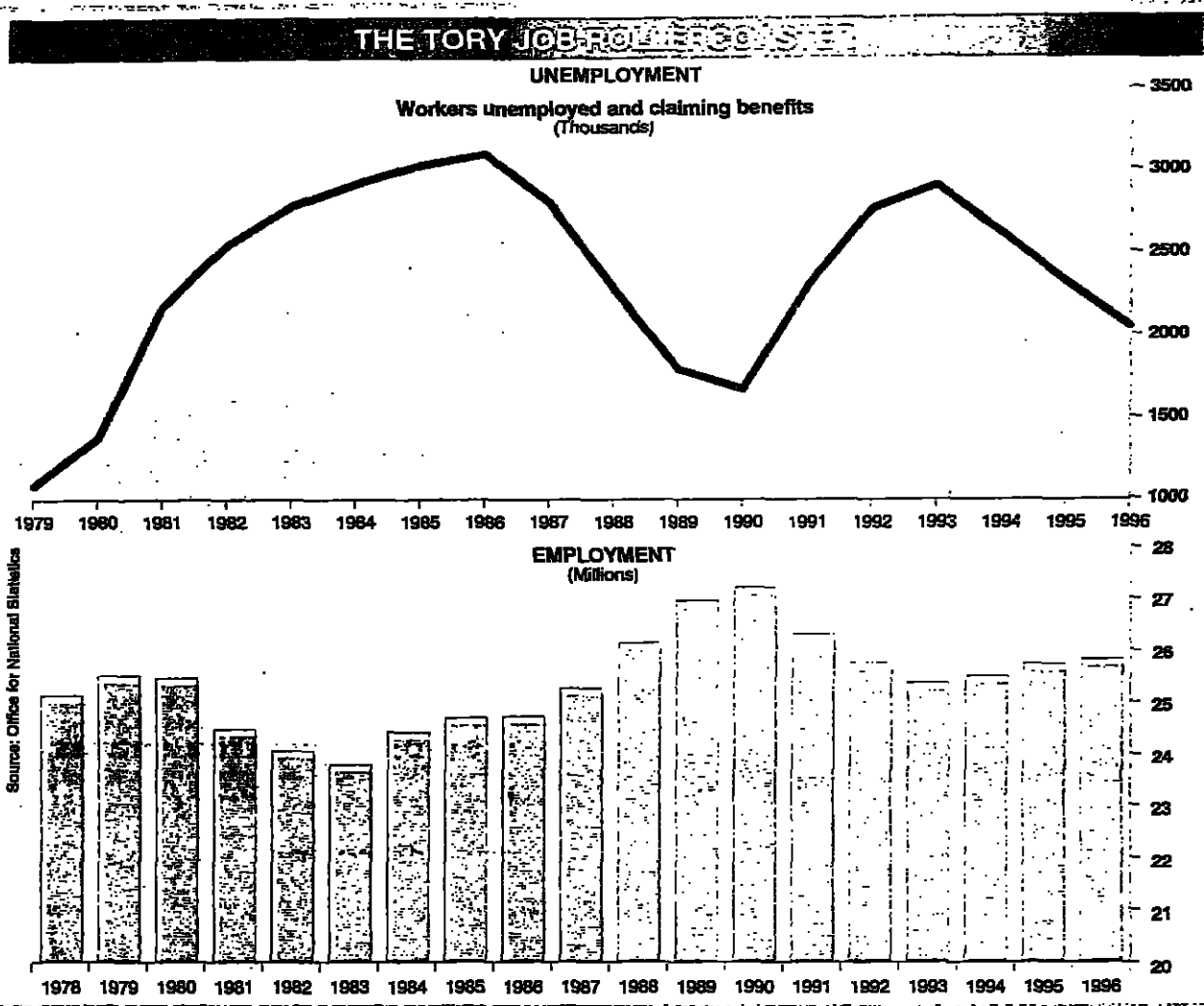
fect economies across the world — the shifting pattern of world trade and the application of new technologies.

Both moves have put strong pressure on jobs in advanced industrial countries such as Britain. As newly emerging economies have entered the world market, multinational firms have been forced to keep their costs highly competitive by seeking lower unit-labour costs and wage rates, an objective which has often been easier to achieve in highly deregulated labour markets.

At the same time, continuing technological advances have meant that many jobs which used to be heavily labour-intensive now either no longer exist, or can be done with a fraction of the workforce. The two trends have often been intertwined. Bookings made in the UK for some airline tickets, for example, used to be manually processed across the counter. Now they are handled by cheaper ticket operators based in South East Asia, linked to Britain by telephones, modems and computers. Changes in trade and technology have gone hand in hand, and clerical jobs have been lost in Britain as a result.

The other side of this coin, however, has been rapid growth in business services and finance, both industries in which Britain has been able to exploit its comparative advantages with the help of technology and the easing of trade barriers and capital controls. Financial services in all their forms today employ the same proportion of Britain's workforce as manufacturing.

This is the kind of evidence used by ministers to support their claim that a more flexible labour market has been the most critical component in Britain's increased prosperity and successful economic performance. Labour under Tony Blair has officially acknowledged these claims, at least in part, but has also suggested that misguided economic poli-



cies — including excessive deregulation and inadequate emphasis on training — have exposed workers to exploitation, have lost jobs that could have been preserved, and have damaged society by destroying job security and undermining long-term investment and planning.

While the direction of the labour market reforms has been clear in the past 18 years, the precise effects of the changes have been hard to gauge, partly because of gaps between the Government's main ways of measuring jobs.

While total net employment grew by 2.5 per cent in the 18 years from 1979 to 1996 on the basis of the employer-based surveys used by the Treasury, there are other statistics which suggest a somewhat more dynamic performance. For example, using the Government's Labour Force Survey, which is based on interviewing households, employment since 1979 has risen by 1.28 million, or 5.2 per cent.

Looking at this more generous estimate in greater detail helps to explain some of the pessimism which persists about jobs. Although total employment in Britain has risen, the number of jobs held by men has gone down by 4.6 per cent during the Tory years. An increase of almost two million in jobs held by women has more than accounted for

the whole growth of employment. This shift between the sexes has pushed the proportion of all jobs held by women up from 39 per cent in 1979 to 45 per cent now.

There have also been marked shifts in the age-structure of the workforce, with many older workers forced or encouraged to take early retirement, to be replaced by younger workers on lower wages, whose pensions have also been cheaper to fund.

The types of employment have also seen significant changes. In 1979, the number of people in full-time jobs stood at 18.7 million. Now it is down to 16.7 million, a drop of more than 10 per cent. Full-time jobs used to comprise 77 per cent of the total. Now they are less than two thirds. Part-time working, seen as a hallmark of the UK's more flexible labour market, is up from 3.9 million to 5.7 million — a 45 per cent rise, with part-time work now accounting for more than a fifth of Britain's jobs total.

Most of this part-time activity has reflected the preferences of women with family responsibilities, but a large proportion of the part-time working has been involuntary — about 15 per cent of part-time employees say they would prefer to have full-time jobs. And the greater entrepreneurship of

the Thatcherite 1980s has also been reflected in the large rise of self-employment, up by 86 per cent from 1.8 million in 1979 to 3.3 million now. As a share of all jobs, self-employment has risen from 7 per cent to 13 per cent.

There have been clear switches between sectors: a 42 per cent fall in employment in primary industries such as mining, and a fall of more than 30 per cent in manufacturing employment, which at 7.2 million in 1979 comprised 30 per cent of the total. At 4.9 million now, it is down to 19 per cent.

At the same time, the number of people working in business and financial services has more than doubled, to 3.6 million. And despite the Government's drive to reduce public sector numbers, the total number of people working in the public and social services is up by a fifth, to 1.3 million.

Regions such as East Anglia and the South West have seen sharp rises overall in jobs, by more than 20 per cent, though the South East still holds sway in the job market, taking a total share of 34 per cent of the jobs in 1979 and almost unchanged now at 33 per cent.

Finally, in occupational terms, the decline of manual employment continues, down by more than 3.5 million since 1979, or 31 per cent. Jobs in

service areas such as sales are up in total by 19 per cent, while professional and managerial jobs now form the largest part of total employment, at 36 per cent or 9.3 million in all.

These drastic changes in the demand for different skills and occupations have been the main cause of the widening in earnings inequality throughout the Tory period, although some Labour politicians would also blame the less progressive tax structure and the general climate of "Tory greed".

The precise extent to which the rich have become relatively richer and the poor have got poorer is a matter of intense dispute among economists. This is not a question which can be settled objectively by any one set of figures, since the answer depends critically on whether the comparisons are made between individuals or households, and on whether welfare benefits, in cash and in kind, are taken into account. What almost nobody denies is that the gap between rich and poor has widened. The question to be answered is whether this has been caused by changes in the nature of technology, trade and employment, and whether it can be narrowed by putting a different party in power.

Next week:  
law and order

#### THE POLITICIANS

##### GILLIAN SHEPARD

Age: 57.

Education: North Walsham High School. Modern languages at St Hilda's, Oxford.

Family: two stepsons.

Experience: former schools inspector, county councillor. Became MP for Norfolk South West in 1987 and rose through Treasury, becoming Employment Secretary, moving to Agriculture, Education then merged Education and Employment.

Politics: dry economically. Solid speaker, criticised by the Right as insufficiently radical.



Performance: personally likeable, privately witty. Solid speaker, criticised by the Right as insufficiently radical.

##### DAVID BLUNKETT

Age: 49

Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury, night school and day release, then politics at Sheffield University. Family: three children at local comprehensive.

Experience: former leader of Sheffield City Council. Became MP for Sheffield Brightside in 1987. Health and Education before taking both Education and Employment. Likely to retain his post if Labour wins. Politics: standard-bearer of the old "soft Left" in Labour, now moved to the Centre.



Has huge constituency support and is trusted by Tony Blair. Performance: competent and determined.

#### WHAT THEY SAID

Unemployment must be the main preoccupation of economic policymakers in the 1990s.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor. The extent of job insecurity is going to be a central feature of the general election.

Tony Blair. My father did not wait around... he got on his bike and went out looking for work.

Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary 1981-83.

Rising unemployment and the recession have been the price that we've had to pay to get inflation down. That is a price well worth paying.

Norman Lamont, Chancellor 1990-93.

We should remember one simple fact — not for a single month since Thatcher first came to office has unemployment been lower than it was when Labour was voted out.

Bill Morris, general secretary TGWU.

What I am saying is that job insecurity is a state of mind. The reality is, by creating a flexible labour market, we have actually been creating more jobs.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job. It's a depression when you lose your own.

Harry S. Truman, US President, 1945-52.

#### THE FACTS

□ Britain's total workforce is now 28 million — 22.2 million employees, 3.4 million self-employed, 220,000 in Armed Forces, 200,000 on training schemes, and 1.8 million unemployed.

□ In Britain, 74 per cent of the working-age population is in work, compared with 77 per cent in Japan and 78 per cent in the USA, and with 68 per cent in the EU.

□ Seventy-five per cent of the British workforce is in full-time work, with a quarter working part-time. For women, 55 per cent are in full-time and 45 per cent in part-time work.

□ Unemployment in Britain now stands at 6.5 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent in the USA, 3.2 per cent in Japan, 9.3 per cent in Germany and 12.5 per cent in France, and with 10.9 per cent for the EU as a whole.

□ Average earnings in Britain are £31.70 a week — £18,300 a year. For men the weekly figure is £39.16, and for women £28.3.

□ Best independent fore-

##### PUBLIC ATTITUDE TO TRADE UNIONS

Percentage of people in 1996 saying unions are a...

Good thing 67%

Bad thing 20%

Don't know 13%

Net percentage saying unions are a good thing minus those saying they are a bad thing

Source: Gallup

79 85 91 96

casts suggest that employment in the UK will grow by about 1.2 million by 2001, or more than two thirds of that growth in jobs held by women.

#### CONSERVATIVES



Employment: continuing drive for greater flexibility will push up employment by making employing more people more attractive.

Unemployment: will continue to fall with more flexibility, and by attacks on dole fraud through Jobseeker's Allowance and moves such as Project Work. New emphasis on long-term unemployed, but no new schemes.

Training: modern apprenticeship scheme, support for Training and Enterprise Councils.

Social chapter: keep opt-out, oppose EU job regulation.

Minimum wage: oppose minimum wages, promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay.

Unions: outlaw strikes with "disproportionate" effects.

Pay: promote decentralisation of pay bargaining, individual pay setting and performance pay. Public sector pay bill freeze.

Boardrooms: continued self-regulation of executive pay and corporate governance.

#### LABOUR



Employment: greater economic growth will lead to more jobs.

Unemployment: windfall tax on privatised utilities will fund youth employment and training programme. Welfare to work programme that will move people from the dole. £75 weekly subsidies to employers to take on long-term unemployed.

Training: individual learning accounts, matching funding from government.

Social chapter: end opt-out to provide minimum job standards in line with other European employees.

Minimum wage: legislation to provide a minimum wage with level recommended by low pay commission.

Unions: no roll-back of 1980s law, but statutory union recognition for collective bargaining where majority want it.

Pay: pay bill freeze for top civil servants in first year. Tight cash limits on public sector pay.

Boardrooms: new powers for utility regulators to counter excessive top pay rises.

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Employment: boost jobs by investing in infrastructure, and introduce regional development agencies.

Unemployment: investment in skills, welfare-to-work programme including benefits paid as a voucher to employers. Benefit transfer scheme for long-term unemployed.

Training: work experience part of education from age 14. All adults entitled to retraining. Refundable training levy of 2 per cent of an employer's payroll.

Social chapter: sign the social chapter.

Minimum wage: regionally varied minimum wage.

Unions: legal framework of employment rights, including union membership.

Pay: review equal pay legislation.

Boardrooms: higher top rates of income tax. Direct shareholder elections of companies' executive remuneration committees.



# Important news about the Norwich Union Flotation

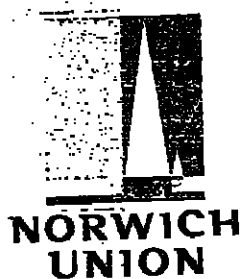
Norwich Union members should cast their votes now for or against the Norwich Union flotation.

As a member your vote is important and will make a difference.

Only if the flotation goes ahead will qualifying members get free shares in Norwich Union plc, and the chance to buy extra shares at a special members-only discount.

You should shortly receive a postal voting form, and this should be returned as soon as possible. If the vote is in favour, your application form for shares at a discount will be sent out in May and the flotation should happen in June.

For once, being a 'floating' voter could bring real rewards!



flotation

INSURANCE

INVESTMENTS

HEALTHCARE

PENSIONS

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE FLOTATION PROPOSAL AND MEMBERSHIP ARE SET OUT IN THE CIRCULAR DATED 20TH MARCH. QUALIFYING MEMBERS ARE, BROADLY, THOSE WHO HAVE A NUUS LIFE INSURANCE, PENSION OR ANNUITY POLICY, WHICH WAS IN FORCE AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 1ST OCTOBER 1996, AND IS STILL IN FORCE ON 18TH APRIL 1997. HOME, MOTOR, OR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR FREE SHARES OR SHARES AT A DISCOUNT, NOR DO CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE INCOME PROTECTION INSURANCE OR WHO BELONG TO COMPANY PENSION SCHEMES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES CALL THE CUSTOMER INFORMATION LINE ON 0645 444818 (CALLS WILL BE CHARGED AT THE LOCAL RATE AND WILL BE RECORDED OR MONITORED.) THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY FOR INVESTMENT BUSINESS) AND APPROVED BY KLEINWORT BENSON LIMITED (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES AUTHORITY) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 57 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986.

# Synagogue accused of sex bias over Gryn post

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the country's leading synagogues is divided over whether it should appoint a woman as senior rabbi. Accusations of prejudice have been made against officials of the West London Synagogue, the renowned centre of Reform Judaism formerly led by the late Hugo Gryn.

Members of the congregation want the synagogue's popular associate minister, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, to succeed Dr Gryn, who died last year. The synagogue council has decided to look elsewhere. Insiders at the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) and the synagogue itself believe that Mrs Tabick is opposed because she is a woman. A petition in support of Rabbi Tabick, who has served the synagogue for many years, has attracted 500 signatures.



Rabbi Tabick: is said to face prejudice

obvious difference between Reform and Orthodox Jewry is that we have women rabbis, and men and women can sit together in the synagogue.

Another insider, who asked not to be named, said: "She is a charming and capable person. But they won't give her the job because she is not a man. It is as simple as that."

The Jewish Chronicle reports claims that support for Rabbi Tabick is less widespread than had been thought, and that some members had been "coerced" to sign the petition.

With more than 2,000 families, the West London Synagogue, founded more than 150 years ago, has the largest membership of any synagogue in the country. It became known far beyond the Jewish community under the leadership of Rabbi Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who became a nationally known broadcaster and who was assiduous in helping to improve inter-faith relations. The post is viewed as one of Britain's most important rabbinical appointments.

The synagogue's rabbinical appointment council has considered various proposals, including appointing three rabbis to replace Dr Gryn, with Rabbi Tabick as "pastoral" rabbi. Rabbi Tabick rejected these plans but is understood still to be considering modified proposals.

In a letter to members of the congregation, seen by The Times, the synagogue's president, David Lewin, and its chairman, Jeff Samson, referred to "action on the part of a few of our members - which can only be harmful - to question the decision of our elected council".

Rabbi Tabick was unavailable for comment last night.



Brave hearts: Heather Ripley with her daughter Josie, 9, at the site of her latest environmental protest in Scotland

## Actress moves from screen to green

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CHILD star of the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* has taken on the role of an environmental protester. Heather Ripley, who in the film helps her screen father, Dick Van Dyke, to overthrow a monarch who hates children, now travels the country trying to defend nature.

At the weekend she pitched her tent at Pressmennan Wood, East Lothian, where a company intends to fell 300 oak trees. The protesters are camped around a flag of the Scottish lion on Clints Dod hill, near the village of Stenton. Ms Ripley, 37, who also worked as a model in the United States, is accompanied by her daughter Josie, 9, and son Cosmo, 11.

Her previous performances for the "eco-warriors" have



On film: as Jemima, centre, in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

stretched from the Outer Hebrides to the Newbury bypass route. She joined the tunnel protester Swampy on a demonstration against nuclear submarines at Faslane naval base.

She was discovered by Hollywood producers while

*Braveheart* roused her passions to protect the countryside in her home country.

She said: "I was amazed at the dedication of people chained to trees and in the path of bulldozers. Their tactics seemed spectacular. It seemed far removed from nice quiet life and something I was unlikely ever to become involved in."

"But I heard of the plans to put a road through an ancient burial chamber in Lewis and I had to get involved. Although we failed to stop the building of the road, that first step of action changed my life."

The Forestry Commission said the oaks were to be felled under a new management plan to preserve the long-term future of Pressmennan Wood, which had no young trees to replace the mature ones when they died.

## Bishop to reveal new plans for bombed church

By LIN JENKINS

A NEW proposal for the bomb-damaged medieval church of St Ethelburga, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, could end four years of wrangling in the Church.

Plans for a modern glass-fronted design that left exposed the parts of the church damaged by an IRA bomb were rejected by City planners last year. The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, will announce the latest proposal tomorrow.

It is understood that the revised plans envisage St Ethelburga being reopened as a centre for peace, reconciliation and mediation. It is unclear what plans the bishop has for the fabric of the building, about a third of which was destroyed.

Traditionalists had pressed for the Grade One listed building to be restored, with its medieval street frontage, roof and 18th-century bell turret. The decision to look again at the future of the building came after planners rejected the design by the architects Blee Ettwein Bridges to redevelop the site after some Church leaders argued that there were too many churches in the City.

Planners deemed the £3 million scheme - which would have encased the ruins in glass and steel and incorporated a memorial garden, gallery and office building - as "inappropriate".

Objections were raised by the Ancient Monuments Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the London Society, the Retail Traders Association, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelburga.

The friends had lobbied for a plan by the architects Rothermel Thomas. It proposed rebuilding the church, including the popular walled garden, to provide "a valuable ecclesiastical and meeting space" in the City.

## Three exam boards to merge

Three examination boards are to combine after a government demand for mergers to protect A-level and GCSE standards. Further cuts in the range of syllabuses available to schools are expected to follow the merger of the Associated Examining Board, Northern Examinations and Assessments Board and City & Guilds. Boards have already been asked to reduce to two each the number of syllabuses per subject by next year.

## Buzzards return

Buzzards have returned to the Yorkshire Dales after an absence of 150 years. Bird watchers have recorded at least 15 pairs, raising hopes that the rare species will colonise the east of the country once more.

## Hand severed

Surgeons reattached a man's hand after it was severed by an attacker with a samurai sword. It was too early to say if the victim, 25, from Wigan, would lose that hand. A man aged 22 was charged with grievous bodily harm.

## Places pledge

Independent schools were reassured that new assisted places will be honoured if Labour wins the general election, even though the Department for Education has stopped confirming them during the election period.

## Burger relish

A free burger for pupils who rarely play truant has been negotiated with McDonald's by Rhodri Lewis, a teacher at Cwm Rhymni school, Bargoed, Caerphilly. Other incentives are geometry sets, book tokens and Easter eggs.

## Tenor's farewell

Luciano Pavarotti is to make a farewell gesture to the Royal Opera House's present building with a recital accompanied by piano on May 11. Tickets are likely to cost up to £125. The building is to close for a two-year redevelopment.

# Homeowners

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# Cheaper laser eye surgery may put standards at risk

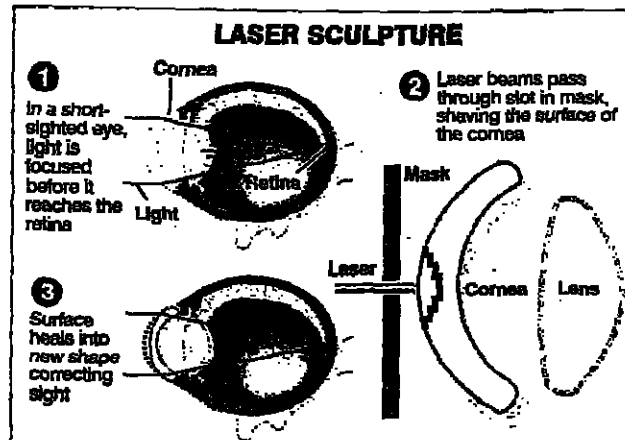
BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CUT-PRICE laser treatment to correct short sight may lead to a fall in standards, optometrists have warned. The price of the treatment has dropped from about £1,500 per eye to less than £300 in two years, and up to 15,000 patients a year now have the surgery.

The British College of Optometrists says that the technique, which involves shaving a tiny layer from the surface of the cornea to correct its focus, is still experimental, and this should be explained by the 25 laser clinics to their patients.

Keith Edwards, professional adviser to the college, said: "The real concern is over the quality of the procedure and how it is conducted. In general the results are pretty good, pretty predictable and pretty stable. But that is the average and there are always extreme responses."

Problems included scarring and distortion of vision, but they were rare, he said. Most patients would experience an improvement in vision, but it might not be sufficient to allow them to dispense with specta-



cles, and the treatment could not halt the normal decline in vision with age.

Mr Edwards said: "The problem is that, once it is done, it cannot be undone. Most other methods of correcting sight are reversible. Even with contact lenses you can always take them out."

Clearsight, a London clinic, was charging £1,400 per eye in 1994, including aftercare, but dropped its price to £995 more than a year ago and has recently cut it again to £295, including one follow-up visit. The initial assessment and

subsequent follow-ups are charged at £25 each. Vivian Highman, consultant ophthalmologist at the clinic, said: "Like any commodity, laser treatment was more expensive when it first came out. Now we know more accurately what what can be done." Mr Highman said all care was provided by consultants and, although the clinic's laser was an older model, it had been upgraded four times. "It is virtually the same as the modern ones," he said.

Russell Ambrose, owner of the Optimax chain of five laser

clinics which treats more than 200 patients a week and charges £95 per eye, including aftercare, said economies of scale made the lower price possible. "It's a business. We are a specialist provider."

He said consultants provided the initial assessment and the treatment but the follow-up checks were by opticians. "If there are any complications the doctor will see the patient again. The opticians are under the control and supervision of the doctor and legal responsibility for the patients remains with the doctor."

Charles Magee, Professor of Ophthalmology at Dundee University and chairman of the British Excimer Laser Society, said: "If you have low prices you may have to rush patients through to meet financial goals." He said the high price of lasers, at £400,000 each, meant charges had to be high in the early years but could be reduced once the machine had been paid for. The older machines were adequate for simple, low-level shortsight but might not be for complex problems.

Science Briefing, page 15



Etienne Bacrot moves closer to becoming the youngest grandmaster at the tournament in Enghien-les-Bains

## Chess boy becomes grandmaster at 14

A FRENCH boy aged 14 could soon be a millionaire after becoming the world's youngest chess grandmaster at the weekend (Raymond Keene writes). Etienne Bacrot, who achieved his result in the international tournament at Enghien-les-Bains in France, is likely to be courted by computer manufacturers seeking his endorse-

ment of their products. He is, however, one of the few experts who does not rely on computer analysis to support his efforts. And, unlike many

prodigies, he is not accompanied by pushy parents. In the final round he needed only a draw to take the title. He won with black in 41 moves, ex-

ceeding his requirements by half a point. His age of fourteen years and two months beat the previous record, held by the Hungarian Peter Leko, who became a grandmaster at fourteen years, four months and 22 days. Previous holders include Bobby Fischer.

Keene on Chess, page 38

## Clear alternative to glasses is not an easy choice



Short sight is to a large extent inherited. Its incidence varies from one race to another: in the Far East more than 90 per cent of students in some universities need to wear spectacles because of the condition. It is uncertain what link there is between short sight and a high IQ. The Victorians thought that eyes could become strained by years spent poring over books, but a few decades ago the popular medical view was that short-sighted people gravitated towards the library because they found it hard to exert at games. Recently there has been support for a theory that a high IQ and short sight may, in some cases, be part of a genetic package.

Short sight may start in early childhood and is usually obvious by puberty. The eyesight may continue to deteriorate and usually becomes stabilised in the early 20s. Wearing glasses may affect self-esteem and be an inconvenience at work and at play. Contact lenses may be uncomfortable and may cause serious infection.

Vision is impaired by too great a distance between the front of the cornea and the retina, the membrane at the back of the eye which converts the images that it receives into nerve impulses for transmission to the brain. The cornea and lens in a short-sighted person focus the viewed image to a point well in front of the retina, so it is out of focus. Ophthalmologists in Russia

were the first to popularise surgery to correct short sight. They altered the shape of the eyeball, making it rounder and therefore less long by cutting radial incisions. This technique, known as radial keratotomy, was greeted with some suspicion in the West although a Russian hospital ship did brisk trade when it toured the Mediterranean coast offering the operation. Some British surgeons use the technique and claim excellent results without serious complications, but its popularity has been reduced by concern about the long-term effects and the danger of rupture of the eyeball.

In laser surgery, the eye's focusing mechanism is altered by shaving the cornea with a laser beam. The technique has proved reliable and is popular with patients.

The success of laser therapy is dependent on choosing a surgeon who is very selective when deciding which patients should be offered the operation. The primary objective must be to improve the sight of a person who feels that their life is being spoilt by having to wear spectacles.

When trouble has arisen, usually it has been because clinical judgment has been warped by the need to earn guineas, so that unsuitable cases are selected for treatment and others are inadequately supervised.

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Security crackdown in key towns as Hamas guerrillas threaten further wave of attacks

# Israel pulls back from complete break in talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN EMERGENCY session of Israel's security Cabinet decided last night against suspension of all talks with the Palestinians and instead demanded that the Palestinian Authority fulfil its obligations to "fight terrorism as an essential step for continuing the political process".

The decision was taken in the face of opposition by some hawkish ministers, who had demanded a complete cessation of contacts in response to the claim that Yasser Arafat gave the "green light" for the start of a new campaign of suicide attacks.

Last Friday's explosion in a Tel Aviv café, in which three people were killed and 40 hurt, was the first of its kind since Binyamin Netanyahu came to power promising Israel's "peace with security".

Mr Netanyahu's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said that for now talks would continue only "on issues directly related to preventing terrorism... until there is satisfaction on the security level".

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday threatened more suicide attacks such as the one in Tel Aviv, and denied that Mr Arafat would be able to crack down on its activities as it claimed to have an organisational structure in place and ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Mr Netanyahu said after the meeting in Tel Aviv, a city surrounded by new Israeli roadblocks designed to try to thwart the Islamic bombers: "I am not suspending talks because our people are meeting their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying

with that, or else we cannot move." The Palestinians shrugged off the Israeli threats, claiming that negotiations were already in deadlock. They blamed Israel's decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The Hamas statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz al-Deen, al-Qassam

Brigades, Hamas Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats... to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

Friday's suicide bomber came from a West Bank village still under Israeli mili-

itary rule and where a strict curfew has been imposed. His family is attempting legal moves to prevent their house being destroyed by Israeli troops.

On the ground in Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, the tinderbox atmosphere caused more violence and prompted the Israeli security forces to throw up an unprecedented ring of roadblocks around Tel Aviv and other cities in an attempt to thwart the Hamas bombers.

In Hebron, stone-throwing

Brigades, Hamas Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats... to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

By last night the Palestinian authorities said that nearly 200 Palestinians had been injured since last Friday, 20 of them by live ammunition fired by troops.

As the settlers celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim in a bizarre carnival atmosphere enhanced by wigs and fancy dress, Palestinians living in the area still under Israeli control were under curfew and Palestinian police formed a human chain in an attempt to keep angry protesters from trying to storm the Jewish properties from the 80 per cent of the city now back in Arab control.

The spiral of bloodshed provoked by Har Homa has, according to travel agents, dealt a severe blow to Easter tourism. At least one tourist bus has been stoned in Bethlehem.

Yesterday morning two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli border guards at a roadblock between Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a dispute over identity cards.

**"We do not need much effort to prove the truthfulness of our threat to teach Netanyahu a lesson"**

with that, or else we cannot move.

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By last night the Palestinian authorities said that nearly 200 Palestinians had been injured since last Friday, 20 of them by live ammunition fired by troops.

As the settlers celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim in a bizarre carnival atmosphere enhanced by wigs and fancy dress, Palestinians living in the area still under Israeli control were under curfew and Palestinian police formed a human chain in an attempt to keep angry protesters from trying to storm the Jewish properties from the 80 per cent of the city now back in Arab control.

The spiral of bloodshed provoked by Har Homa has, according to travel agents, dealt a severe blow to Easter tourism. At least one tourist bus has been stoned in Bethlehem.

Yesterday morning two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli border guards at a roadblock between Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a dispute over identity cards.



A Palestinian uses a catapult to hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers in Hebron

## Islam told of duty to rescue Jerusalem

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, warned Israel that its headline position on the construction of Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and the latest housing development in the area could lead to the total collapse of the Middle East peace process.

At the same time he made an emotional appeal to Muslim countries to act to save Islam's holy place from the danger of Judaisation.

Mr Arafat, who was addressing an extraordinary summit meeting of the 54 members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, said that Israel's latest move had taken the peace process down a dead end. The one-day meeting ended late yesterday after adopting a declaration supporting the claims of the Palestinians on Jerusalem. Among the Islamic leaders attending the conference were President Rafsanjani of Iran, President Edemir of Turkey, and Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Arafat said that time was fast running out for peace. "Israeli plans to establish Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem are a flagrant violation of the peace agreement brokered by Washington."

In a scathing attack on America he said that it was unfortunate that Washington had been supporting Israel's illegal action.

Farouq Kaddumi, a close associate of Mr Arafat, declared that last week's suicide bombing was a normal reaction to the provocative policies of the Israeli Government. "When a cat is driven to the wall, it is natural for her to attack," he said.

Mr Kaddumi, a former spokesman for Mr Arafat on foreign affairs, rejected the charge made by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the bombing took place on the instructions of Mr Arafat. "That is a blatant lie," he told journalists after the conference.

## Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS THE three women victims of last week's Tel Aviv bomb were buried yesterday, Israeli security experts were studying details about the suicide attacker who blew himself up after selecting a table in the most crowded part of a café.

Unlike the conventional profile of Islamic terror group bombers — single, unemployed Palestinian men in their late teens or early twenties — Moussa Abu Delyah Ghneimat was 28, married with four young children and had regularly worked in the kitchens at restaurants in Israel, including two in Rishon LeZion, home of Israel's wine industry.

"The fact that he had four kids of

his own and must have known that his bomb was going to blow up a mother and baby sitting in a pram near him makes the attack all the more chilling," said one Jerusalem housewife.

The yellow duffel bag he was carrying contained explosives and nails. The bomb killed Anat Rosen-Winter, 32, a lawyer and mother of the six-month baby, Shani, whose picture, dressed in a Purim clown's costume, appeared on front pages throughout the world. Michal Avrami, 32, a doctor who was four months pregnant with her first child, also died in the blast.

Security sources admitted that the identity of the attacker had made the task of pinpointing potential suicide bombers more difficult.

It also opened up the prospect that a number may already be inside Israel waiting to act, despite the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghneimat came from a Muslim family in the occupied village of Zurlit, near Hebron. Neighbours described him as "a quiet guy" who regularly slept overnight at his work in Israel.

It emerged yesterday that he had been dismissed from one restaurant in Rishon LeZion a few weeks ago for flirting with a Jewish waitress, but returned to work in the kitchen and slept on the premises the night before he took a bus to Tel Aviv to carry out his mission.

"Restaurant workers do not remember him talking politics. There

was no sign he had any political interest," said a lawyer for one of the two restaurant owners released on £5,000 bail after being arrested for employing the Palestinian without work permits.

"He had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the centre of the country," said Yaacov Perry, former head of the Shin Bet internal security service. Mr Perry added: "From what I understand, he aroused the attention of the manager of the Apropos café because he was wearing a long coat even though it was 26°C (78°F) and most people were in short sleeves." However, he would have detonated the bomb if he approached, so there was no way to prevent the attack.

Rishon LeZion police arrested 23 illegal Palestinian workers over the weekend who were working in four restaurants, where they are favoured by employers because they accept low wages and are hard workers. The Tel Aviv daily, *Haaretz*, reported that all the owners — who were also arrested — had allowed the Arabs to sleep on the premises "even after the Tel Aviv attack".

In a statement Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, believed to have at least 100 more volunteer suicide bombers, said: "[Binyamin] Netanyahu has to realise that the failure to change his current settlement policies will lead to an explosive situation and a crisis in the entire region."

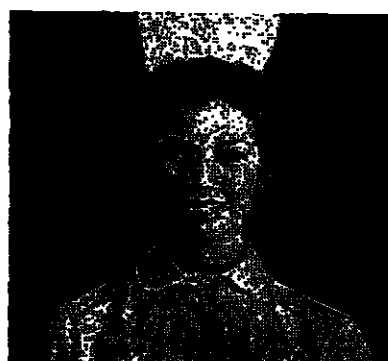


Ghneimat: had young family

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## Diplomatic dilemmas await Gore in Beijing

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, will need to step gingerly when he sets foot in Beijing today for four days of talks.

A year in the planning, the visit had once been envisaged as a showcase for Mr Gore to show off his skills as a world statesman as just one of his qualifications to succeed Bill Clinton in 2000. But that was before America's China policy was sabotaged by the campaign financing row, with allegations that China funnelled money into last year's election through proxy donors to try to influence the Administration and members of Congress.

Although China has denied the charges as slanderous, Chinese officials are under investigation by the FBI, making Mr Gore's task more complicated. After some dithering among his aides, he has decided to broach the subject with Chinese leaders, but in a non-accusatory way, he said. Mr Gore's own legally dubious role adds to the delicacy of his position — he made telephone solicitations from the White House and attended a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple.

He is also in a quandary over the chance to seal a lucrative deal for the sale of Boeing 777s to China. The contract would be a victory for the American aircraft manufacturer over Europe's Airbus Industrie and would protect hundreds of jobs at Boeing's factories in Seattle.

At one time the Administration banged the drum loudly for American business in China, but that commercial diplomacy is muted now. White House officials fear any gestures that could be interpreted as paybacks for Chinese cam-

paign contributions. Only after much agonising did Mr Gore decide that he probably will attend the ceremony if the Boeing contract is signed while he is in Beijing.

Another dilemma for Mr Gore is China's eagerness to win admission to the World Trade Organisation. The Vice-President might have been eager to help, but he has been trumped by Richard Gephardt, leader of the House Democrats and Mr Gore's rival for the party's presidential nomination in 2000.

Mr Gephardt, denouncing the Administration's progress in challenging China over human rights abuses, has introduced legislation that would require congressional approval for Chinese admission to the WTO. The majority Republicans may gleefully take him up on it.

Mr Gore is the highest-ranking American official to visit China since President Bush in 1989, a few months before the Tiananmen Square crackdown. His discussions will cover a broad range of issues, including Hong Kong.

He will also deal with preparations for the promised exchange of state visits. President Jiang Zemin is expected to travel to America this year and Mr Clinton tentatively plans to go to China next year. Both these trips could be clouded unless the campaign gifts controversy has been tidied up by then.

□ Tokyo: Mr Gore yesterday ruled out any cuts in US forces in Japan, saying it was the "worst time" for such reductions. Before flying to China, Mr Gore had talks last night with Yukihiko Ikeda, Japan's Foreign Minister. Mr Ikeda also ruled out cuts at present. (Reuters)



A wax model of the Dalai Lama is adjusted by a member of Madame Tussaud's at a travel fair in Bombay

## Dalai Lama hopes to make deal with Chinese on Tibet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said yesterday at the start of a visit to Taiwan that he was optimistic of reaching an agreement with Beijing about autonomy for his country.

He said he had informed the Chinese about his Taiwan trip and the response had been less harsh than he expected.

The Dalai Lama was showered with praise on arrival, but Beijing warned the Taiwanese Government that the exiled leader is "a criminal splittist".

Thousands of monks, pangs, Tibetan refugees and ordinary Buddhists mobbed him when he visited the Fuguan-shan temple, where amid the beating of drums and bells he was escorted by one of his hosts in Taiwan, Master Xing Yuan, the temple's founder. Once inside, speaking in Tibetan and occasionally Chinese, the Dalai Lama led prayers for peace.

Although he described the purpose of his six-day visit to Taiwan, his first, as promoting "basic human values and

religious harmony", the visit has been denounced in Beijing by the official People's Daily as the "Taiwan authorities and the Dalai Lama clique colluding and using each other, consorting with evildoers, going further down the road of splitting China".

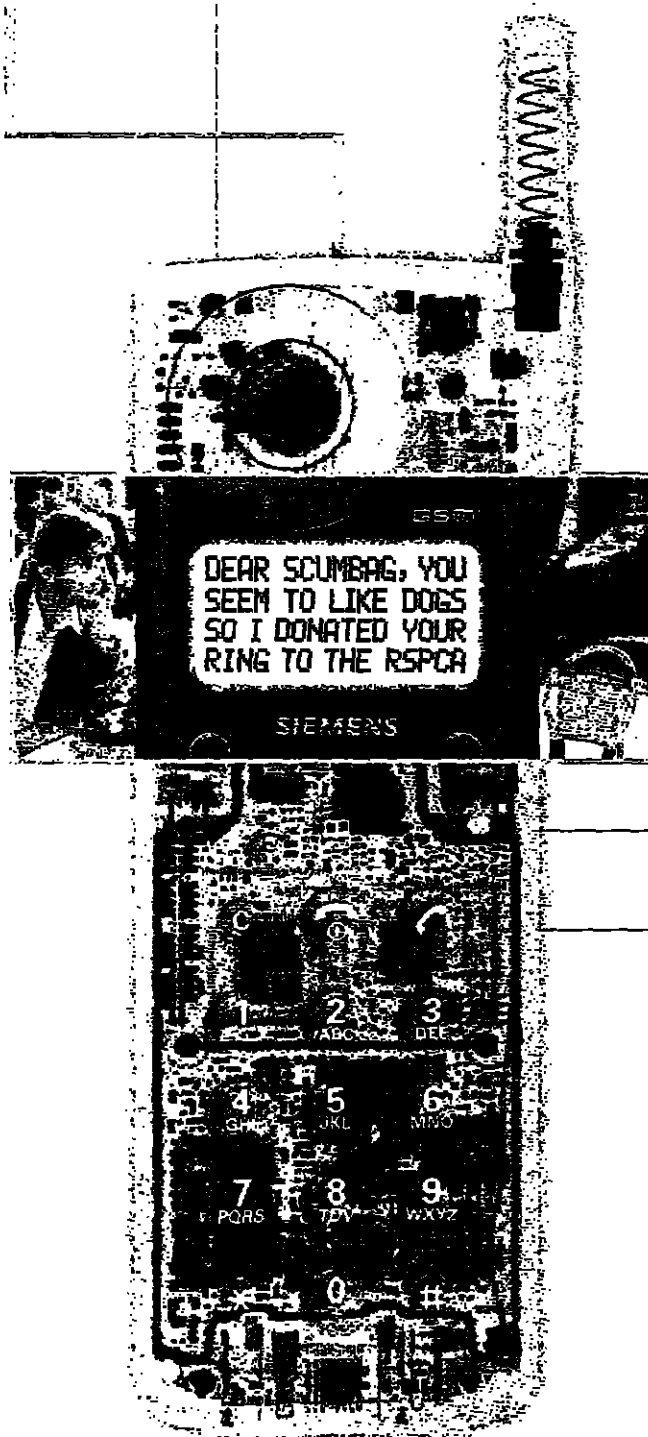
The Dalai Lama is looking forward to meeting President Lee Teng-hui. The meeting will probably be in a guest house rather than in Mr Lee's office, to reduce the impression of a state welcome.

On Taiwan, Tibet is officially claimed as a part of China of which Taipei insists it is the legitimate government. The official position is represented by the Government's Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Office, and there are Tibetan representatives in Taiwan's parliament.

The Council is sometimes accused of funding rival groups of Tibetans who do not respect the Dalai Lama. It denies this and says much of its money is spent on helping occupational training schemes for Tibetan refugees living in India.

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## Tall Ships prepare for battle in Pacific

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

IMAGES of clipper races, nostalgia of Empire and romance of sail combined in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour this weekend with the arrival of 33 gracious vessels which will take part in the first Tall Ships race in the northern Pacific.

The magnificent old craft will set sail for Osaka on Good Friday after a two-day regatta in the Frangant Harbour. Competitors from as far afield as Poland, Mexico and Colombia are taking part in the 1,450-mile voyage. The biggest ship taking part is the *Dar Młodzieży* from Poland, which is 354 ft long, and the 294 ft *Cuahtemoc* from Mexico.

"When the ships leave it will be the most phenomenal sight. They will head off to the east, so there will be the mainland of Kowloon on one side and the Peak on Hong Kong island on the other. With the ships fully rigged, it will be terrific," said Ian Dale, director of Hong Kong's Marine Department.

The journey comprises two racing stages from Hong Kong to Okinawa and Kagoshima to Osaka, and a cruise-in-company leg of 350 miles from Okinawa to Kagoshima. The biggest ships will sail with up to 200 crew members.

On board *Ji Fung* (Spirit of Revolution), the ship representing Hong Kong, are a lawyer, doctor, administrator, plumber and an air-traffic controller who, according to the captain, Greg Tonnison, know basically nothing about sailing. "We are all in the same boat. Of course, we don't want it to sink," said Sung Woei-min, 25, a graphic designer.

Sailing may be the oldest form of locomotion, but the sextant will play only a decorative role in this trip. The captains are relying on the latest gadgetry — global positioning system navigation and radar.

The sight of the ships harks back to the 1860s when there was a clipper race from Canton, and later Fuzhou, China's principal tea port, to London each year. British tea merchants paid an extra £2 per tonne for tea for the first trader to arrive from China.



Bush: first jump was not flawless

## Bush to repeat aircraft bale-out

BY IAN BRODIE

THIS time, George Bush will jump by choice. The former American President, who baled out of his crippled navy bomber 52 years ago, will parachute for a second time tomorrow.

At 72, he is due to jump out of an aircraft over Arizona at 12,500ft. "The reasons behind this are strictly personal," Jim McGrath, Mr Bush's assistant, said. "It has to do with World War Two. When it happens, we'll explain it."

These cryptic remarks have given rise to speculation that Mr Bush may be trying to exorcise demons from his earlier jump. Two crew members died in the episode and the issue flared up as a dispute during Mr Bush's presidential campaign in 1988.

In 1944, Mr Bush, then a 20-year-old pilot, came under anti-aircraft fire during a raid over the Japanese-held island of Chichijima in the Pacific. In a 1987 account, which differed from his earlier versions, Mr Bush said the two crew had been killed and the plane was engulfed in flames. But the war hero carried on to the target and dropped his bomb before bailing out.

His story was questioned by a gunner in the plane just in front of Mr Bush's who said his plane was never on fire and it was possible Mr Bush "could have saved" his two crewmen "if they were alive" if he had attempted a water landing.

Mr Bush has admitted his jump under fire was not flawless. He pulled his rip cord too quickly and was gashed on his forehead when he hit the tail of his plane.

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# Lifelong campaign against Mobutu pays off for Kabila

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN KINSHASA

THE hatchet-faced, 6ft-tall Tutsi bodyguard stared down at his leader, Laurent Desiré Kabila, a roly-poly revolutionary with a smile as ready as a humourless Tutsi's frown.

When I first met the head of Zaire's rebellion at his base in Uvira in South Kivu last November, it was difficult to believe that the English-speaking Tutsi from Rwanda, and a graduate of Belgrade University, could have been a comrade-in-arms of the legendary Che Guevara.

Is Mr Kabila, who now controls a third of Zaire and may topple President Mobutu,

a puppet of Rwanda, Uganda, and their allies in Washington? Is he just a front-man for Rwanda's operation against Hutu extremists in refugee camps inside east Zaire? Or is he using the Tutsis as stalking-horses for a genuine rebellion against dictatorship? Five months later the answer is "yes" to all three questions. And, so far, "no" to views that he is planning to use Zaire as a base for a pan-African Communist revolution.

Born in 1939 in Jadgville, now Likasi, in what was Katanga province, Mr Kabila has been fighting against Presi-

dent Mobutu most of his life, sustaining his war efforts by allegedly indulging in gold smuggling in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

Although he is suspected of the kidnapping of three American workers at Jane Goodall's chimpanzee sanctuary at Gombe in Tanzania, Mr Kabila is now the darling of the diplomatic crowd in Washington and European capitals. But not so in Paris, where he is seen as a marionette of American plans to eclipse French influence in the region.

His language is still peppered with 1960s revolutionary slogans about "emancipation of the masses", but he has abandoned the wider Marxist rhetoric of his youth for pro-democratic clichés and commitments to a "free market throughout Zaire". This ideological switch at the age of 58 may seem suspect, but it is worth noting that six months before President Zaire swept to power after 11 years of civil war in Ethiopia, he declared his economic model was then President Hoxha's Albania.

Mr Kabila has been tutored in how to succeed as a revolutionary in post-Cold War Africa by President Museveni of

Uganda and Paul Kagame, Rwanda's Vice-President and Defence Minister. They both came to power through rebel forces and are much admired by American officials.

No one, least of all Uganda and Rwanda, expected the rebellion of Tutsi Banyamulenge in Zaire which they backed last November would climax in a national uprising against President Mobutu's dictatorship. "In the early stages, the Rwandan and

Ugandan aims were clear... to send military officers to help the Banyamulenge defend themselves against Hutu and Zairean extremists and at the same time rid east Zaire of Hutu extremists and Ugandan rebel movements. This was quickly achieved, but what followed surprised everyone," a Western envoy in Kinshasa said yesterday.

Mr Kabila is the ideal candidate to represent the Alliance of Democratic Forces for

Liberation of Congo-Zaire. In 1960, he had fought for Patrice Lumumba, then Prime Minister, against Katanga secessionists, and had taken part in uprisings in North and South Kivu. By the mid-1960s he fled to Kenya and Tanzania after the rebel "governments" he helped to set up were routed by Mr Mobutu's army with the help of mercenaries and Belgian paratroops.

Mr Kabila resurfaced in 1977 to take part in an uprising

against President Mobutu in Kisangani, but was once again ejected, this time by French and Moroccan troops.

Now, however, "no one thought that Kabila would sweep through Zaire so quickly", the ambassador said. "But he has become the one man who has exposed the myth of the state of Zaire: the man that said 'the emperor has no clothes'. He is the man Zaireans now trust to put the country straight," he declared.



Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, with UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, is cheered by supporters in Kisangani

## Five found dead in fire at cult home

St Casimir, Canada: The bodies of three women and two men were found by firemen in a Quebec home belonging to a member of the Swiss-based Order of the Solar Temple cult, police said here yesterday.

A girl and two boys, discovered behind the house, were being treated by a doctor.

The possibility of a collective suicide was being investigated after the blaze. More than 70 members of the sect were killed in apparent group suicides in 1994 and 1995. (AFP)

## Rival fans clash

Amsterdam: A man was killed and dozens injured in a battle between hundreds of rival soccer fans (Mark Fuller writes). Supporters of Ajax FC of Amsterdam and Feyenoord of Rotterdam attacked one another with baseball bats, knives and hammers in a field on the outskirts of Beverwijk, near Amsterdam. Police said the fight was pre-arranged.

## Bomb suspect

Washington: Canada has arrested a Saudi man as a suspect in the lorry bomb attack on a barracks that killed 19 American soldiers near Dhahran in Saudi Arabia last June (Ian Brodie writes). Hani Abdel-Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh, 28, is wanted for questioning by the FBI in Washington.

## Spicer charged

Sydney: Colonel Tim Spicer, leader of the mercenaries hired by Papua New Guinea, is due to face a minor firearms charge in Port Moresby today (Roger Maynard writes). Australia's largest company, BHP, closed its steel mill in the capital and evacuated about 20 employees.

## Life on the line

Tokyo: A boy aged 18 months escaped with a minor cut to his head when he crouched on the tracks as a train passed over him in Nagasaki, with the driver desperately trying to brake. The boy had been visiting his grandparents, who live near the tracks. (AP)

## Zaire talks hope rises

ZAIRE'S Government inched closer to negotiations with eastern rebels yesterday after a haggard President Mobutu emerged from three days of seclusion in the capital to greet Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's Deputy President (Sam Kiley writes).

After kissing his visitor, Mr Mobutu 66, cracked out a few lines of explanation for his second return in eight months from cancer treatment in Europe. "I have come back

not to look after the interests and the fortunes of Mobutu, as some of you [the press] write, but to look after the interests of Zaire," he gasped from beneath his trademark leopard-skin hat.

Mr Mbeki said he had delivered a personal letter from President Mandela, and gave a broad hint that Mr Mandela was pressing the Zairean President to agree to negotiations with the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila.

## Northerners put faith in Berisha

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

TO THE north of Tirana lies rolling upland — a Third World mishmash of half-built villas, pit latrines and wrecked cars. This is "Chechen" country: the hardest of Albanians, highlanders who carry their guns with pride and shoot skywards in support of President Berisha.

"To us he is a legend — he cut the rope of 50 years of communism from around our necks," said Elmaz Kurti, a retired army officer from the grim northern chromium-mining town of Kukës. "We will take up arms for him, we will go to the middle of Tirana to defend him."

It was a wedding day, and the Kalashnikovs in the Tira-

na suburb of Bathorne were unusually active. Against the din of gunfire and gypsy music, the people were quick to gather, settling in the harsh sun on a variety of armchairs and stools outside the house of Mr Kurti's brother, Mahmud, the local Kryepalok or leader.

"We don't have anything against the South but they must do as the Government says and put down their guns. The state is the state, and if the President was really applying the law we would have war. He is being very tolerant," he explained to nods of approval from young and old.

A visit to Bathorne quickly dispels any notion of there being room to negotiate with

southern rebels over the President's resignation. There are 22,000 people in these sprawling settlements that cloak the northern outskirts of Tirana; people driven out of their homes near the Serbian border by dire poverty and a disastrous reservoir project inspired by the former Communist leader, Enver Hoxha. President Berisha's village of Tropoje is in their heartland, and his is the only voice to be trusted.

Albania is a clanish country where politics in the North is a question of sticking with who you know. President Berisha is the man of these highland people, and those who question his rule are part

of a Communist, American and media-inspired plot. "The big powers and USA have always tried to split Albania," said Mahmud Kurti. "If it happens, we will fight."

"We are not frightened of these southern bands. There is no other way but to kill them all," Elmaz Kurti said.

A young Shik secret policeman hobbled over, his right leg bandaged. Ahmet Doda had the misfortune to be on duty in the southern town of Vlore during the pyramid riots in January. When the Shik station was attacked by the mob, he was shot while leaping from a second-floor window, and eventually airlifted to safety by helicopter.

## India tracks killer wolves

Rae Bareilly, India: The end is near for the wolves of Rae Bareilly after the animals ate five children and mutilated five others along the banks of the Lone river in northern Uttar Pradesh state (Christopher Thomas writes).

Riflemen are tracking the killer packs in 100 villages. One wolf was shot on Wednesday, but it limped off and escaped. It was the first stroke of luck in a battle of wits with the cunning wolf-packs, which are starving because traditional food sources have all but disappeared. Last year 22 children were killed and 25 injured. Wolves are protected, but the law permits killing them if they prey on people.

## British explorer safe after ordeal in Arctic

BY AMANDA LOOSE

A BRITISH polar explorer has been flown to safety after falling through ice into the Arctic Ocean.

Alan Bywater, 21, a computer studies student from London but now living in Vancouver, Canada, fell through thin ice on the tenth day of his unsupported solo attempt to walk to the North Pole. He arrived at Base Camp in Resolute Bay, in Canada's North-West Territories, late on Saturday night suffering from acute frostbite in his hands and feet.

Mr Bywater said: "I thought on more than one occasion that I would definitely die out

there. I've been incredibly lucky. My left leg went through the ice, and my body, from the waist downwards, suddenly plunged into the ocean."

Despite losing all his equipment, including his radio, Mr Bywater managed to clamber back on to the ice. He spent six hours looking for the tracks of fellow polar explorers David Hempleman-Adams, 40, and Rune Gjeldnes, 25, from Norway, who were also attempting an unsupported walk to the North Pole. "I knew it was my only chance of survival," he said, describing the relief when he saw their tent.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

**SUPERMAN MBE**  
Martin Offiah's double  
life in rugby  
PAGE 33

**SILVER LINING**  
Paula Radcliffe runs  
into the medals  
in Turin  
PAGE 27

**SIX APPEAL**  
Italy make the case  
for European union  
PAGE 32

**TEE OFF**  
Junior  
tour  
attracts  
huge entry  
PAGE 36

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

## DOCTOR'S ORDERS GIVE HODDLE A HEADACHE



**OUT: David Seaman**  
(Arsenal) Recovering from  
his third injury of the season,  
this time a knee



**OUT: Gary Neville**  
(Man Utd) Played with a  
painkilling injection in Oporto;  
ankle ligament damage



**OUT: Gary Pallister**  
(Man Utd) Perennial back  
problems; now a groin injury



**OUT: Stuart Pearce**  
(Nottm Forest) Fit as a 34-  
year-old can be, but busy  
managing his struggling team



**OUT: Darren Anderton**  
(Tottenham) Eternal  
problems; an ankle strain



**OUT: David Beckham**  
(Man Utd) Came off nine  
minutes from time on  
Saturday; pulled hamstring



**OUT: Paul Gascoigne**  
(Rangers) Ache in plaster;  
myriad social problems



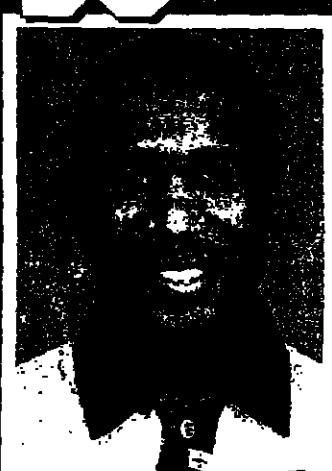
**OUT: Andy Hinchcliffe**  
(Everton) Recovering from  
ankle injury



**OUT: Paul Merson**  
(Arsenal) Recovering from  
a hernia operation



**OUT: Alan Shearer**  
(Newcastle) Three operations  
on his groin in 10 months



**OUT: Les Ferdinand**  
(Newcastle) Recurring  
trouble with his hamstring

# Sick notes claim fantasy first eleven

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

**OPERATION** England versus Mexico at Wembley on Saturday is beginning to resemble the farce of *Carry On Doctor*. Already a complete and recognisable England XI has been withdrawn from the fixture and, yesterday, as the dance between Alex Ferguson and the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, took more twists and turns than any of the wounded players should be asked to attempt this week, it looked curiously close to compromising on the ethics of club versus country.

On Saturday Ferguson had decreed that three of his players, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister and David Beckham, would not subject themselves to the new England rule that, in case players are malingering or being held by their clubs for reasons other than genuine medical infirmity, they must travel down to Bisham Abbey and have their various ailments put under

the rule of Dr John Crane. "They will not be going down to join England," insisted Ferguson. "They will remain under our care."

Barely 24 hours later, Ferguson relented in the case of Gary Neville, who had played under United's care with a painkiller injected into his ankle against FC Porto last Wednesday, but had not been fit to perform in the league game at Everton on Saturday. The deal struck between Ferguson and Hoddle was that if, indeed, Neville proved to have no chance of representing his country, then he would be replaced by his younger brother, Philip, another United player.

A further twist was added when Hoddle invited another United player, David May, 26 and in the form of his life, to step into the shoes vacated by Pallister. Of all the ironies this week, it would be remarkable if May were to win his first cap for England, remembering that his distinction at Old Trafford was to have replaced

Steve Bruce, whom many believed to have been the best defender never to have played for his country.

Hoddle will also be watching the match at Highbury between Arsenal and Liverpool tonight with some anxiety. Seven of his squad will be on show: David James, Dominic Matteo, Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman for Liverpool and Tony Adams and Martin Keown for Arsenal. Hoddle can ill afford any more withdrawals.

In a further development, David Seaman could return for Arsenal after a six-match absence following a knee operation. His recovery came too late for inclusion in Hoddle's squad.

At least David Batty and Robert Lee, who played in Newcastle United's 1-1 draw with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park yesterday afternoon, and Paul Ince, who played for Inter Milan in their 2-1 victory over Parma, were expected to report fit for duty.

The overcrowding of the fixture list, the dire need of clubs to try to nurse players through the crush of the last months of the season, clash with England's desire to fill a blank Saturday with, in essence, a training match.

The day is open for such a game because players from 11 countries are absent from their Premiership clubs for World Cup qualifying matches. Wales play Belgium this weekend. Northern Ireland are at home to Portugal, and

Ireland take their English league players to Macedonia.

The problem is global. At a medical symposium held by Uefa, football's European governing body, in Italy earlier this month, 70 sports doctors agreed that footballers are being submitted to almost intolerable loads. Uefa, with its own expanded Champions' League, contributes to that problem, as does Fifa, the world governing body, whose World Cup qualifying games have burgeoned to more than

400 between competing nations and who have, putting politics before the quality or the need for rest among performers, now contrived to have 36 nations in the finals in France in 1998.

Can we wonder that, when the Football Association seeks to inflict high and mighty medical rules on the clubs, rather than offer consultation and co-operation, the likes of Manchester United are inclined to rebel. Ferguson can justifiably claim that his club is on the threshold of doing more to restore England's reputation abroad than the national team.

The same, in reverse, applies to Southampton. They stand timorously on the brink of relegation. Matthew le Tissier is the man whose goals have saved them in the past. So, when Graeme Souness, the manager seeking to keep the South Coast club afloat in the Premiership on gates of 15,000, clashes swords with Hoddle, there should be some understanding.

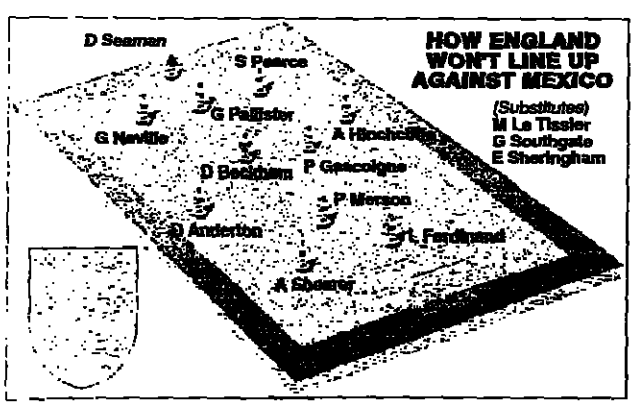
Le Tissier, claim Southampton, has foot and groin injuries. It sounds like a new epidemic. But should le Tissier be pressed into service and then exacerbate his injuries, Southampton might lose him for the season and be relegated. We might well then see a High Court claim for a portion of the £15 million loss that Premiership status is estimated to be worth to a club each season. The chairman of the FA, Keith Wiseman, happens to be on the board of Southampton FC.

These are complex and emotive issues in the club versus country tug of war that has stretched some players to breaking point. Le Tissier himself commented at the weekend: "I won't be fully fit (for England) and you saw

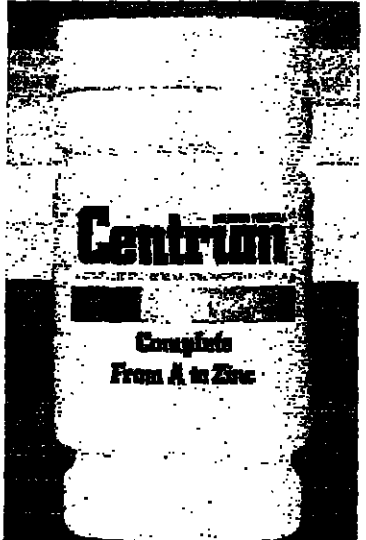
what happens if you play when you're not fit." He was referring to Alan Shearer, coming back too soon for Euro 96, and attempting to run through injury against Italy this year. He might have added the name of Jamie Redknapp who, twice injured on England duty, has lost the better part of a season for Liverpool, the club that pays his wages.

To the team above, one might add Gareth Southgate, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams, who are all likely to attend Dr Crane's surgery, sicknotes in hand.

Hoddle's need for a workout, for an England team bearing some resemblance to an authentic unit for World Cup matches to come, runs contrary to the club campaigns. Hoddle is a man of faith, indeed he has indulged in faith healing to cure injuries of his own. But where money, ethics, and the growth of fixtures collide, not even a faith healer can solve the insoluble.



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Judges put technical competence before artistry in world championships

## Lipinski leaves behind hollow impression

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

THE Frenchwoman chose the circus as her theme, and skated the big top with all she possessed. But the American skated the freak show from the fairground next door and stole the judges' hearts.

The name of the geek is Tara Lipinski, 14 going on ten. On Saturday she crowned a prepubescent little girl as women's world champion figure skater. She stood on the podium, grinning goofily — "I'm still in shock," she kept saying unendingly — all 4ft 8in and 5½ stone of her.

Odd sight: the medal podium, naturally, was in three stages, but all three heads were more or less on a level. It was, perhaps, the crowning absurdity of a peculiar but enthralling afternoon.

Sport is a bitch goddess, we all know that. But if you seek the real viciousness of caprice, then ice skating is the queen of them all. This is a fact of life in all the subjectively judged sports, from dressage to trampolining, but skating has a killer factor that no other sport can rival.

This is "artistic impression". Well, I don't know much about art, but I know a damn sight more than any skating judge, at least on Saturday's evidence. Michelle Kwan, the American who finished second, might well be thinking the same thing.

Kwan was the defending champion. She is now 16, and has trained on from last year. Precocious talent has been transmuted into grace. No longer a little girl, she is at least half a woman and certainly all teenager. She has learnt a good deal about art and a lot about worry. In a year, she has learnt self-doubt, as any angst-ridden teenager must.

But not Lipinski. She has yet to reach such a stage in her life. She skated like a whirling automaton. She is stunningly competent; there is not an ounce of dispute in that matter. But then, she has a huge advantage: the alliance of her precocious talent and her freakish size.

It is this combination that allows her to spin with such extraordinary rapidity. For that reason, there is no call for her to jump terribly high. In fact, when she performs a triple, you would still find it difficult to slide the *Journal de Genève* beneath her skates.

Her thinness also makes her landings much safer. The heavier you are, the greater your momentum and the further you skid. Skating is always a sport that favours the compactly built, but this is ridiculous.

With most things in sport, there is a trade-off. Every advantage is also a disadvantage. The super-tall goal-

keeper has a huge advantage on crosses, but is vulnerable to the short-range grubber. The massive ball-winning rugby forward has no speed. And so on.

In skating, the very short skater has the advantages mentioned, but can never look truly elegant. With Lipinski, the trade-off of her virtuosity is in grace: in artistry, if you like. And yet she was not penalised for this. The judges fumbled it.

Infant prodigies are an uncomfortable phenomenon. You find them in chess, mathematics and music something to do with pattern recognition. Perhaps these freaks are most worrying in music. A child



'Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet'

may be able to play *The Goldberg Variations*, but that does not make him Glenn Gould.

And that is Lipinski for you; she is just playing the notes. Terribly well. Dazzlingly well. But, for the moment, she is just the skating equivalent of a human piano. Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet. Or even started looking.

That is what is so endearing about Kwan. There is no more earnest seeker in the world than the teenager in search of her soul. I mean, like, what is the meaning of life? No thoughts on that matter, or on any other, from Lipinski. She was still in shock.

Kwan was in fourth place going into the free programme and knew that she would have to skate as she has never skated before to win. She had undergone a nightmare of tumbles in the United States national championships, and began

her short programme here with another fall. Angst had undone her.

Begone dull care. So she thought about, like, life, you know, and death. She thought of Scott Hamilton, the great American skater who has just been diagnosed as suffering from testicular cancer. "I realised I'd been focused on the wrong thing," Kwan said. "I mean, compared to that, we're lucky just to be here. And we're here to have fun."

And so Kwan skated as if in a dream of beauty, and it was four minutes of pure loveliness, for, despite all the nonsense, this is a lovely sport. And the judges responded as judges should and awarded her their best marks. And so Kwan won the free programme, just as she should have done. And it was not enough.

The final results in skating all come down to the comparative placings of the panel of judges. The last skater was Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, who put up a magnificently dramatic performance, ending up with a showy double Biellman spin, skate blade clasped in her hand above her head.

Inexplicably, the judges were unmoved, and Slutskaya finished fourth. This added complication was enough to keep Kwan in second place overall, to philosophise on such matters as life and death, and heat and kitchens.

The anomaly of it all was the extraordinarily high marks that Lipinski received for artistic impression. It was as if the judges believed that someone so technically gifted must be an artist. And it is not true at all. It is as if they thought the *Venus de Milo* was much the same thing as a Barbie doll. The judges acceded to the wishes of the American corporate hunger for teeny heroines.

Thus they have brought discredit upon their sport, and insulted its participants. Why have marks for artistic impression in the first place, if you don't use them to discriminate between artist and freak?

But Kwan knows that, for all this, she had her destiny in her hands, and she let it slip in that initial fall. The jumps are what puts skating into the arena of sporting chance, and you either land them or you don't. Her recovery, though doomed to ultimate failure, was a noble thing. "It's a wonderful feeling," she said, "learning to fly again."

The Winter Olympics are just 11 months away, and Lipinski, aka "the Robotic Skater", is now in pole position. No doubt she will be a millionaire by the time the torch is lit in Japan. She might even have started to look for her soul. It is time that her sport did the same thing.



Lipinski in action during her free programme, which lacked the grace shown by Kwan, her rival

## SKIING

## Britain in danger of missing out on Ormond potential

FROM SIMON WILDE IN TIGNES, FRANCE

NOW that Tim Henman has made British tennis respectable, there are precious few sports left to us for self-mockery. So, thank goodness for skiing, we all say. There is a sport that we will never be good at: it is not in our genes to be. Leave it to the French and the Austrians.

Er, wrong. Actually, Great Britain does possess a brilliant teenage skier who could well reach the top. Her name is Sophie Ormond, she is 17 years old and ranked in the world's top ten for her age-group. By all accounts, she is extremely promising. She may be living proof that, biologically, there is still no reason why a Briton cannot be among the best skiers in the world.

That is what those close to the British Alpine team have said for years. Their argument is that skiing is a sport in which competitors are commonly separated by mere fractions of seconds: the difference, say, between one kind of ski and another, or between back-up staff who have enough time to study every twist and turn of a race course and those who do not. With better funding, they say, British skiers can make those fractions disappear.

Here, though, is the rub: because, as the striving to remove those fractions goes on, Ormond may be unwilling to remain British much longer. Ormond, you see, has a choice: although her parents are British, they have long

Results page 34

lived on the Continent. She was born in Switzerland and resides near Annecy.

Her genes may be British, but she is, by her own admission, half French. Many of her mannerisms are English, but she speaks in French to her elder brother, James, who also skies for Britain and expects to continue doing so. Sophie is less sure. She has been nurtured by the French ski system since the age of nine and identifies that as the reason why she is as good as she is. She also knows that it can better help her to push for the highest summits.

"I have skied with Britain for the juniors and at the world championships and am grateful for what they have done," she said in Tignes, where she finished overall joint-second in the British Land British championships.

"but I cannot get a sponsor and don't know how to go about it. I don't even feel there is anyone who can help me. I have been with them two years and have not found a sponsor in that time, so why should it happen now?"

"I would like to go with Britain, but it would be much easier with the French. They have the coaches, the back-up staff and the training camps. Everything is the best and it is all paid for. With the French, I believe I can make it to the top. My French coach, Michel Boyer, has been really good about it. He just tells me to do the best for myself."

Doing that, though, will almost certainly mean Ormond taking up French citizenship. For the want of proper financial support, Britain's brightest talent for years will slip through the net.

## BOXING

## Brodie can aim high after defeat of Swain

BY SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL BRODIE proved himself one of the most exciting prospects in Great Britain on Saturday. Brodie, 22, from Manchester, was only just beginning to come out of the six-round stage when he found himself facing Neil Swain, of Wales, the Commonwealth champion and one of the toughest men in the British super bantamweight division, at the Wythenshawe Forum.

Although Brodie has a punch to get himself out of trouble and is a gifted boxer, it was thought that the decision to go for the vacant British title might have been made too early. Even Jack Trickett, his manager, wanted to have a few more bouts before taking on Swain.

Sure enough, Brodie found himself in a brutal encounter that must be a contender for bout of the year. It ended in the tenth with Brodie pulling out a right that knocked out Swain. He was out for a good two minutes and ring officials were beginning to get concerned when he suddenly recovered. Brodie, too, received his share of lumps and bumps, and twice almost got into serious trouble.

Anyone without genuine potential would not have been able to withstand the violence that Swain unleashed on the youngster from the first bell and the unrelenting pace at which the bout was contested. Brodie is definitely one to watch. With judicious matchmaking and clever promotion, he could go all the way.

Trickett said: "That was a very hard fight that wants some getting over. I did not want to take it until he had had a couple of eight or ten-rounders first."

Trickett now expects Brodie to defend his British title, to try to win a Lonsdale Belt outright, and perhaps challenge for the European title if a suitable opening presents itself.

## ATHLETICS: BRITISH DISTANCE RUNNER PREVENTS AFRICAN CLEAN SWEEP IN WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Radcliffe provides Europe with silver lining

FROM DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN TURIN

AMID the customary African dominance of the world cross country championships, Paula Radcliffe, from Bedford, struck a small blow for Europe here yesterday when she took the silver medal in the senior women's race. Briefly, it looked as though Radcliffe would win, but Deraratu Tulu, from Ethiopia, stole past her in the finishing sprint to regain the title lost last season when a shoe came off.

In four races, Radcliffe was the only athlete from outside Africa to win an individual medal. As you might expect from a young woman who strives for perfection in everything she does — she is a former junior world champion and, as a student, achieved four A-grade A levels and a first class degree — her first reaction was one of regret. "I was a little bit disappointed

straightaway, because I thought I had it won," Radcliffe said.

However, the more she thought about it, the better she felt. Bearing in mind that she had not finished higher than eighteenth in three previous attempts, that no Briton had come as close since Liz McColgan in 1987, and that this is the most competitive women's foot race of all, it was an outstanding effort. Like McColgan, when Annette Sargent, of France, was champion, Radcliffe was only two seconds behind.

Radcliffe, 23, was well-positioned throughout and, with a kilometre of the 6,700 metres to run, was one of five in contention. The others were Tulu and her countrywoman, Gete Wami, the defending champion. Sally Barsosio, from Kenya, and Julia Vaqueiro, from Spain, Wami was first to break, but Radcliffe responded and hit the front 400 metres out.

However, with less than 100 metres to run, Tulu picked up her speed and Radcliffe, though she did not slow, was unable to raise hers. "I knew I had Wami beaten, but I did not realise Tulu was still there," Radcliffe said. Tulu recorded 20min 53sec, Radcliffe 20min 55sec and Wami 21min 00sec for third.



Radcliffe strides towards her silver medal in Turin

"You always think, after the race, that you might have been able to go a bit quicker, but I was going as hard as I could," Radcliffe said. "The standard is so high. I have to be pleased." It had been a good omen, after all, she concluded, that a pigeon had messaged on her father's head just before the start.

Again, though, it is a story of a British arrow just outside the bullseye. Since Jonathan Edwards won his triple jump gold medal in Gothenburg in 1995, British athletes have taken 12 silver medals at global championships, but no gold. Perhaps Radcliffe can find the centre at 5,000 metres in Athens this summer. "This gives me something to build on," she said.

Her most notable achievement as a senior until yesterday was breaking Zola Budd's 5,000 metres British record and she is hopeful of improving it further. Eventually, she will move up to 10,000 metres, perhaps experimenting with one this year and racing over the distance at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, but she sees herself mainly as a 5,000 metres runner for a few years.

This was the first time since joining the senior ranks that she had enjoyed preparation unrestricted by illness or injury. Eight weeks' good training,

a month at altitude and no racing for six weeks had brought her to the Parco del Valentino in formidable condition.

Behind Ethiopia and Kenya, Ireland, led by Catherine McKiernan in seventh place, took the team bronze medal. Britain were one runner short of a medal-winning squad. Lucy Elliott was eighteenth and Hayley Haining 22nd, but without another top 50 runner, they had to settle for fourth.

Paul Tergat won his third successive senior men's title, leading Kenya to their twelfth consecutive team victory. Jon Brown, the leading Briton, was fourteenth and Glyn Tromans, on his British debut ten months after a second heart operation, 159th. Kenya swept the junior board, winning the men's and women's individual and team gold medals.

Results, page 34

## EQUESTRIANISM: RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES RESTRICTS OVERSEAS RIDERS

## Top horses ruled out of Badminton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

SEVERAL of the world's top horses will miss the Badminton Horse Trials, the world's leading three-day event, in May, after an announcement yesterday that each overseas rider will be allowed to ride only one horse. British riders may ride two.

The ruling follows a record 151 entries for the event. Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic champion, and Mark Todd, a dual Olympic gold medal-winner, are among leading riders who will have to choose which of their top horses to run.

Todd, who was competing at the Land-Rover Gatcombe Horse Trials yesterday, where he finished third on Kayem — one of his three Badminton entries — condemned the decision. "If the event wants to be the premier in the world, it should employ a ranking system like any other top sporting event," he said.

"Wimbledon doesn't say that Boris Becker can't play because a British player ranked No 364 has to."

Tait, who will have to choose between Chesterfield, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, and Aspyring, the runner-up at the Pratoni event in Italy last year, shared his view. "It will be disappointing for the general public at Badminton who expect to see the best available talent," he said.



Todd: condemned move

"Instead, they will be seeing the best riders with one horse — along with Samantha Clipshy-clop from up the road."

Both riders are also concerned about the effect that the ruling will have on the world rider rankings, which allocates more points for a win at Badminton than other events. "It will give the Britons who are allowed two horses an unfair advantage," Tait, the leading rider last season, said.

Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, admitted that it was "very sad" that a number of qualified horses would be turned away, but said that, with a maximum of 80 starting places, it seemed the fairest decision. "For the future, we have obviously got to work out a different way of doing things," he said.

Meanwhile, Rodney Powell, the winner of Badminton in 1991, had little to complain about at Gatcombe yesterday.

He won the advanced intermediate section after a superb performance on Flintstone, an eight-year-old. Powell, who decided to "go for it" on the cross country, collected just three time faults to finish on a score of 35.

Mary King, on King William, and Todd, on Kayem, both finished on 37, but King was awarded second place because she had more "good" marks in her dressage test.

Andrea Morris, a team gold medal-winner in the 1987 British junior team, had a slender win in the British Equestrian Insurers Brokers (BEIB) open intermediate section on the Fun Dun, a nippy little 15.1 hands mare. Morris now leads the BEIB horse trials series which culminates at Longleat in June.

RESULTS: Advanced intermediate: 1, Flintstone (R Powell, GB) 35; 2, King William (M King, GB) 37; 3, Kayem (M Todd, NZ) 37. British Equestrian Insurers Brokers open intermediate: 1, The Fun Dun (A Morris, GB) 28; 2, Pennyfields George (L Law, GB) 29; 3, King Solomon (M King, GB) 30.

## SNOOKER

## Morgan holds up Hendry

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

STEPHEN HENDRY surprisingly struggled to shake off Darren Morgan, the title-holder, in the opening session of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final at Goffs here yesterday as he established a slender 4-3 advantage.

Hendry, attempting to win his fifth event this season, and improve his already overwhelming record against Morgan to 14 victories from 15 meetings, threatened to dominate as he aggregated 265 points without reply in building a 3-0 lead.

Hendry, successful in ten consecutive finals since being edged 9-8 by Peter Ebdon in the climax to the 1995 Irish Masters, had runs of 116 — his 34th century break of the 1996-97 campaign — and 96 before Morgan dug in his heels.

Fortune smiled on Morgan in the fourth frame when Hendry, leading 30-0, went in-

off after potting a red from distance. Morgan capitalised with an 82 clearance and then accounted for the fifth frame with a century break.

Hendry's hopes of lifting his 64th trophy were bolstered by contributions of 41 and 79, which paved the way for a 4-2 lead, but Morgan, whose greatest asset is a stubborn streak, remained in contention by comfortably prevailing in the closing frame of the afternoon.

That left Hendry requiring five of the ten frames scheduled last night to collect the £72,000 first prize and provide additional evidence that, with the Embassy world championship at Sheffield fast approaching, he is still the man to beat.

Hendry ensured his participation in the eighth final of his 12-year professional career by defeating Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 in the semi-

finals on Saturday, while Morgan unexpectedly overcame Ebdon, the winner of the Thailand Open last week, by the same score.

"That was a bit more like the real Stephen Hendry," Hendry, who constructed breaks of 71, 83, 81 and 91 in beating O'Sullivan, said. "That's the best I've played since I beat Ronnie [O'Sullivan] in the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge final in January."

Hendry, who has been seeded to meet O'Sullivan in the world championship quarter-finals, added: "Over the past couple of months, I haven't really met the standards I set myself, even though I have won a couple of tournaments. This was much more encouraging."

RESULTS: Quarter-final: D Morgan (Wales) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 5-2; Semi-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-2; Morgan bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-2. Final: Hendry leads Morgan 4-3.



FOOTBALL: GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH DOCKWORKERS THAT SPARKED FURORE AFTER A FASHION

# Getting shirty over a personal thing

STEVE McMANAMAN



on how a simple idea was misread

THE T-shirt I wore under my Liverpool jersey against SK Brann, of Norway, had a small logo saying "Support the sacked dockworkers". I explain this, because nobody actually knew what was on it despite the almost hysterical response after the match.

There have been suggestions in certain parts of the media that I and Robbie Fowler will face some sort of sanction for what was, apparently, a massive political statement. It was such a massive statement that the same people had to ask me after the game what the message was.

They didn't know, because they didn't see even when Robbie lifted his jersey after scoring. My T-shirt was only on display at the end of the match when I swapped shirts. Yet here we are now, getting all excited by it.

I was given the T-shirt by a friend of my dad's, who was one of the 500 workers sacked. They are on strike and have not had any wages for two years.

I thought I would wear it under my shirt, merely as a small statement of support for people, some of whom are friends, not as a grand gesture. It is not politics, I am not trying to change people's opinions.

I am concerned about the dockworkers: it is important to me because I know a lot of these people and I know what they have gone through. T-shirts have emerged in recent years as a way of making a statement; but essentially it is a fun thing.

It started out as a celebration — you score a goal and it is an extension of the delight you feel. Ravanelli has taken it a stage further with his shirt-over-the-head trick and there have been some amusing variations.

There have been political comments before. In France, the national squad all wore anti-racism T-shirts and I can agree with that. If it is an important issue for everyone, then sure, go ahead and do it. But I still feel it is largely a humorous medium: a celebra-



Fowler displays the message that caused a fuss about nothing during the match with SK Brann at Anfield. Photograph: Marc Aspland

tion of the art of the goalscorer.

I've worn T-shirts with comments on them before, just jokes really, and Robbie Fowler has had a few. If something is really important to you, if you feel really strongly, then I can see no harm in commenting on it. It can be an easy way of expressing your feelings, but really it is a personal thing. I wouldn't think that massive political issues are served well by being on a T-shirt.

With the dockworkers, Robbie and I have offered personal support, but we are not arrogant enough to believe that by just wearing a T-shirt we are making a difference. All we wanted to do was to give the people we know who have not had any pay for a couple of years a bit of a lift.

I understand that some big-name pop stars are to stage a few concerts in Liverpool to support the dockworkers. Now that is a more tangible benefit that will perhaps offer support in a far more important manner. I am happy that people know how strongly I feel, but as I have stressed in this column before that it is not a moral crusade, just a personal point.

Some people have suggested

we could set a trend now, but I don't think so. T-shirts are just an amusing aside and the messages are best done by people such as Ian Wright, who cracks me up. He is the one who has probably made it more popular than anybody else. Mind you, I think Paul Tait, of Birmingham City, perhaps had quite a bit to do with bringing it into the public consciousness — although not strictly in the best way.

**'I am not trying to change people's opinions'**

I won't be wearing a slogan on my T-shirt this evening against Arsenal. If I score, then I don't think I will need any messages to express the way I am feeling, because this is a match that has taken on huge significance after Manchester United beat Everton on Saturday.

Really, we have to win what is, by any standards, a difficult game. Under any other circumstances, going to Arsenal and coming away with even a point would be regarded as an impressive result. Not now. We know we have to keep within touching distance of United and that means only a win will suffice tonight.

Such are the pressures at the top at this time of the season. We are not unduly worried by the game tonight, we know what we have to do

and will go out to give it everything. But I do believe that we are not going to be given much assistance as we try to lift the championship and continue to pursue success in the European Cup Winners' Cup. It is ridiculous, but we face the prospect of playing four vital games in nine days. Four games that will define our season with barely a day's rest between them. Now where is the logic in that?

We play Everton and Manchester United in the league — traditionally Liverpool's two hardest games of the season — Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup and then Coventry in the league. Apart from anything else, aren't we supposed to be ambassadors for the English game in Europe? How are we supposed to do English football justice with a programme like that? Yet, if we are beaten by the French, the inquests will start, there will be intense hand-wringing about how English football is lagging behind its continental rivals.

It is madness. We have to win all four of those games if we are going to pursue honours, but surely it is unrealistic to ask any team to do that without any recovery time. Every year it seems something like this happens and every year the talk is of resolving the problem. It is about time the talk is translated into action.



The T-shirt statement turned into an art form by Wright

Everton ..... 0  
Manchester United ..... 2

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THERE is a story, quite true, of a barrister who took his friend, the judge, to watch Manchester United play at Goodison Park. Embarrassed to hear sections of the crowd respond with abuse to the call of "Un-ted!", the barrister turned round to apologise, only to see the judge joining in. "What do you think you're doing?" he asked. "I've always loathed those red bastards," the judge said.

Nothing changes where United are concerned. After ten minutes of this strangely uninvolved match, the crowd encouraged people to stand up if they hated "the Mancs", and a few thousand did. After 20 minutes they invited Eric Cantona to go home, though not quite so politely. Five minutes from time some of the Great Unwashed began that ghastly "song" about the Munich air crash. It was a heart-warming afternoon all right.

Gosh, am I being rude about football supporters? Goodness gracious, they are the salt of the earth, are they not? If we are in any doubt,

intolerance, and they can be heard every Saturday all over England. To point this out, as John Arlott and others have done, is somehow not to play the game. People in football are surprised when those who take a broader view mention that this sort of thing simply does not happen elsewhere. The fact is, many football followers do not really love the game. They love their own side, and detest everybody else's.

Now, here are three reasons why United will retain the championship:

1. Peter Schmeichel. As Paul Gerrard was gifting United two goals, the Dane stood tall and proud: the best goalkeeper in the league.

2. Roy Keane. Even in a match as moderate as this, he stood out as United's important first line of defence. He is more than that, of course, but essentially he prevents the other lot playing as they would like. How Liverpool must wish that they had somebody like that.

3. The Frenchman. He did not do much on Saturday, but he is always good value and, by shaking the referee's hand after some minor disagreement, he made the Everton crowd howl even louder. A nice touch. For all the tosh written about him, he remains outstanding.

It was interesting to note the reactions of both scorers to their goals. Solskjaer, after turning Watson inside out on the edge on the box to score with a crisp left-footed shot that Gerrard should have stopped, regarded his with bewilderment, as though he had accomplished something that strained belief. Cantona, who gently volleyed the second when Gerrard hoped his misjudged Beckham's cross, turned away as though he had completed a move of rare delight.

Everton's one recognisable play is to hoof the ball up to Ferguson as often as possible, and the higher the better. Ferguson is not, actually, all that good and, when Rieksot trotted on for the second half, one wondered how such an unremarkable player can sustain a career for so long at this level. Barry, all £5.75 million of him, looked quite out of it. Everton are a mess.

In Pallister's absence, May had a fine game at centre half and, though clobbered by Ferguson's elbow, he refused to buckle. Somehow he has made himself into a decent player, which reflects well upon his character, and also upon his manager's judgment. But we knew that bit already.

EVERTON (4-4-2): P. Gerrard — E. Barncich, D. Watson, D. Johnston, P. Rieksot — C. Thompson (sub. P. Rieksot, 45min), J. Parkinson, N. Barry, G. Spink — G. Stuart, D. Ferguson. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — D. Ince, D. May, G. Pallister (sub. R. Johnson, 58), P. Neville — D. Beckham (sub. R. McIlroy, 21), N. Butt, R. Keane, R. Gigg — E. Cantona, D. G. Solskjaer. Referee: D. Gollagher.

Full results and league tables . Page 30

then a film based on Nick Hornby's grossly overpraised book, *Fever Pitch*, will shortly remind everybody just how much the game means to "real people". They would do better to go back to Arthur Hopcraft, who wrote a much better book 30 years ago and who never gave silly interviews passing himself off as an expert on fiction, even though he knew rather more about the subject.

Hatred: there is too much of it in English football, and most of it is directed at Manchester United, who have brought some distinction to the game recently and continue to emphasise its good points. For this, they are repaid with gross behaviour, and mockery.

When, for instance, Ferguson, the loathsome Everton centre forward, caught May with a reckless elbow midway through the first half, flattening him in the process, the crowd booed May the next time he touched the ball. Is day night? Beckham, who was understandably vexed by this monstrous foul, had to endure the hooting of the crowd for the rest of the half.

It is all very well, as a billboard at Goodison proclaims, to "kick racism" out of football. Why stop there? There are other forms of

## Hooligan sideshow mars honest spectacle

Blackburn Rovers ..... 0  
Aston Villa ..... 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE Aston Villa "supporter" showed off the blood on his new sweater — the result of a skirmish between rival supporters at Mill Hill station, a brisk stroll from Wood Park — English football rediscovered its true perspective. Hooliganism is not dead, never has been, but has merely been bubbling away insidiously beneath the surface.

It has been admirably controlled for so long, no greater exemplified than during Euro 96, and credit is due to the controllers. Yet, while society's ills exist, the football match is still the vehicle for the mindless outpouring of tribal aggression.

Given the opportunity, not necessarily the motive, it will happen. On Saturday, on the

afternoon that the Ellerslie Road stand at Queens Park Rangers became a battle ground, the incident at Mill Hill was relatively trivial. Villa had eased past Blackburn Rovers, with second-half goals from Johnson and Yorke, and the respective followers mingled passively on the platform.

A word out of place, though, a north-south jibe too far, and it went off. With not a representative of law and order in sight, the punching started. Only when the trains mercifully pulled out — one transporting the home supporters into Blackburn, the other taking the returning visitors en route to Birmingham — did the untutored kick-boxing subside.

Even then, insults were traded. Were it not for the premature self-preserving exit at Bamber Bridge of one gallant yet misguided Lancastrian, who had valiantly tried

to stem the torrent of abuse from his tormentor, more blood could have been spilt on arrival in Preston. Had it ignited on the train, a grossly inadequate two-carriage conveyance, with men, women and children sardined together — the consequences are unfit to contemplate.

That the supporters of



Little direct order

Blackburn and Villa do not have a history of skulduggery is all the more worrying. In mitigation, it was possibly a one-off, inevitably fuelled by a surfeit of alcohol and ultimately sparked by indiscreet regional antipathy.

Yet the response of those concerned was scary. They wanted it, they were up for it, they enjoyed it, however brief. It had not been a controversial match, it had not been a passionate derby; it was no more than a regulation FA Carling Premiership encounter, with a deserved winner and an honourable loser.

It was not enough, though. The smug-faced warriors, thrown together by circumstance, desired more. A bit of extra-curricular activity and to hell with those innocently ensnared; an away game, an away win and a spot of "boover". A great day out. Perfect.

Rovers v Villa, to the major-

ity, was not a sideshow. It was not particularly enjoyable, either, with Villa overcoming initial lethargy to enhance their prospects of a Uefa Cup place next season. It was their first away success in the league since December.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, conceded that he had ordered a more direct approach than usual. "We tried to work their centre backs, we tried to hit the strikers and hit the channels early," he said, in a rare lapse into manager-speak. "I don't really want us to be labelled as direct. I hate all that, but we did bypass the midfield more often than normal. If the passes are good, though, then it's OK."

Blackburn were handicapped by the loss of Sutton, who unwisely headed Ehiogwu's head in only the second minute and was eventually carried off on a stretcher and taken to hospital with concussion. Pedersen, his re-

placement, lasted 50 minutes before retiring with an ankle injury, which only highlighted Blackburn's deficiencies. Punctured in attack, they were defensively lax, too — nobody picking up Johnson as he dispatched Wright's through-ball and Hendry's poor back-pass letting in Yorke.

Most spectators dispersed peacefully, whether disgruntled or joyous. Only the Mill Hill few, eyes bulging in obscene excitement, disgraced the occasion. The yob, the proud wearer of a blood-stained sweater, is back; he is real.

Not that he has ever been away.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-2-2): T. Flower, J. Kerr, H. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Lee — T. Sherwood, W. Wallace, G. Raftery (sub. L. Böhmer, 70min), K. Salsbery, J. Johnson (sub. P. Pedersen, 5, sub. G. Dore, 58). ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bonnici — U. Ehiogwu, S. Staunton, R. Scopes — F. Nelson, M. Draper, J. Taylor, A. Townsend, A. Wright — S. Milosavljevic (sub. T. Johnson, 60), D. Yorke. Referee: A. White.

## Thrilling Leeds rewrite Graham's boring script

Sheffield Wednesday ..... 2  
Leeds United ..... 2

By KEITH PIKE

SOME words do not sit happily together in the same sentence: Le Tissier and consistency, Brighton and stability, for instance. Others are strictly prohibited: Birmingham and Premiership; Blackburn and affection. But, if football's phrasebook were rewritten today, an appendix entitled "temporarily unbanished" might be needed to include Leeds United and entertainment, or George Graham and, well, entertainment.

Even Graham seemed taken aback by the verve and spontaneity with which Leeds had illuminated

an already glorious spring afternoon at Hillsborough, at least for an hour. "I didn't tell them to play like that," he protested. His reputation is at risk. Strong words may follow at Elland Road this week, along the lines of: "Crowd pleasers are all very well, but what about the points?" Leeds did not win, after all. Gosh, they even conceded a couple of goals.

But, like it or lump it — and so frequently it has been the latter — Graham's Leeds were a revelation. For once, the manager in the Armani suit had sent out a team not weighed down by a tactical strait-jacket. The travelling supporters at the Leppings Lane end were delicious, staging a mass semi-naked, shirt-wearing sing-song at half-time. One seasoned observer even compared Leeds to Real Madrid, which

might have been overstating the case, but it emphasised the magnitude of the culture shock. Leeds, the king of the clean sheets, and the country's least potent attacking force, were thrilling.

One afternoon of apparently unscripted vision will not prevent Graham from dismantling this team in the summer. Yeboah, Palmer, Deane, Rush and Wetherall are among those on their way out, or rumoured to be. On Saturday, though, Rush and Deane were instrumental figures in a fine all-round performance which keeps Leeds in with an outside chance of European qualification should those above them in the FA Carling Premiership stutter on the run-in. On the ground where, last season, Leeds suffered a humiliating Wad-

de-inspired six-goal thrashing, Kelly and Dorogi overlapped at will. Sharpe raided from the left, and Bowyer and Rush moved into the gaps created by the unselfish running of Deane and Wallace.

Wednesday, among this season's most watchable teams, might have been overrun. Leeds led twice, Sharpe and Wallace converting two of the ten decent openings that they created in the first half, but Radebe left Hirst free to head Wednesday's first equaliser from a corner and Carbone's cleverness created another for Booth early in the second half. Wednesday might have won, Martyn saving from Hirst after the pass of the day from Carbone, but that would have been a travesty. "It was a superb performance, the best since I arrived, but there were

no special instructions," Graham, who was particularly pleased with Bowyer's contribution, said. How, though, did he explain it?

There's no secret. Most managers, myself included, want committed players. I only want players who want to play for me. I have never told them just to go out and hit the ball long. I tell them to defend as a team and attack as a team. Last week I said the same and we had a nightmare first half at Tottenham, but today we were excellent."

Long may it continue. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pressman — J. Nolan, D. Walker, D. Sibley, G. Sneddon — G. Whittingham, R. Humphreys (sub. W. Collins, 79min), G. Carbone (sub. R. Bunker, 88), M. Parkinson — D. Hirst, A. Booth. LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Kelly (sub. D. Wetherall, 77), R. Mowbray, G. Hulse, A. Dorogi — I. Rush, L. Radebe, L. Bowyer, L. Sharpe — R. Wallace, S. Deane. Referee: P. Darmon.

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FOOTBALL: COLOMBIAN'S SUBLIME FREE KICK RESCUES POINT FOR IMPOVERISHED NEWCASTLE AT SELHURST PARK

## Asprilla's artistry colours drab spectacle

Wimbledon ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 1BY ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

POVERTY comes in many disguises. In the FA Carling Premiership, Newcastle United, as rich as they come, and Wimbledon, who make silk purses out of sow's ears, are both suffering in the final furlong as they try to ensure the Uefa Cup place that they feel their season demands.

Wimbledon had won but once in 11 League matches; Newcastle were on the rebound from defeat in Monaco, where Sir John Hall, their club chairman and paymaster, had reportedly said that his players should be ashamed of themselves.

It showed, on both sides. Wimbledon, with a small squad and playing for the tenth time in 22 days, were

Results and tables ..... 30  
Palace power ..... 31  
Scottish commentary ..... 31

weary. Newcastle, without Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, were shadows of the cavaliers who began the season under Kevin Keegan.

And yet there was one transcendental moment. It came from Faustino Asprilla, who equalised Oyvind Leonhardsen's first-half strike in the 52nd minute.

Newcastle had won a free kick just outside the penalty box, for a foul on Ginola. It was the position that Shearer so relishes; he would have smashed it with uncompromising British beef past the goalkeeper. Not so Asprilla.

After Elliott had feigned to take the kick, the Colombian sauntered towards the ball and then, caressing it, with just enough power, but almost radar-guided accuracy and swerve, to outwit goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. It was positively graceful; the arc with which Asprilla bent that ball into the Wimbledon net.

How the 7,000 Geordie fans



Asprilla elegantly curls a free kick over the leaping Wimbledon wall for the Newcastle equaliser in the second half of the Premiership encounter at Selhurst Park yesterday

applauded their imported hero, despite two subsequent failures to head a winner. They had little else to celebrate as the zest and the joy which Keegan had invested in this team was, again squashed at source by his successor as manager, Kenny Dalglish.

When a side defends as poorly as do Newcastle, it seems almost criminal to eschew the virtues of attack. Peter Beardsley had wanted to play, and expected to play. Barely an hour before kick-off he talked, with typical enthusiasm, of Newcastle winning the

championship, though he acknowledged that that would entail winning every game.

And then, poor Peter was consigned to the bench. Newcastle were constrained in the 4-5-1 formation that represents the Dalglish method of trying to erase the defensive generosity he inherited. One wanted to shout that it goes against the very nature, that next summer — when, doubtless, Dalglish will wheel and deal a new balance — will be the time to make his mark.

As it was, Newcastle were moribund in the first half, and

Wimbledon were poor. True, Ginola produced one long shot, which was flicked over the bar by Sullivan. True, Ginola was booed at every turn because Cunningham, booked for a late foul on the Frenchman, was outraged by the histrionics of his opponent.

However, few could argue when, in the 28th minute, Wimbledon scored their goal. It typified the inadequacy of the Newcastle defence, and the alertness that Leonhardsen brings at his best.

A free kick had been poorly cleared. Leonhardsen pumped

the ball back in and, when Lee, often Newcastle's most committed player, was challenged by Harford, the ball went spinning to Leonhardsen. From 15 yards, the Norwegian swung his left foot at the ball and, thanks to a late dive from Hislop, the best the goalkeeper could do was help it, one-handed, into the far corner of his goal.

Both Ekoku and Gayle produced deft touches for such swift, counter-attacking strikers. Gayle, who might even be worthy of an England place given the extent of injuries to

others, demonstrated one breathtaking aspect of his touch, hooking the ball gently over the shoulder of Elliott and moving round him to regather it before the defender knew which way to turn. Ekoku too, could turn defenders, indeed, with a flick of the hips, he eluded two of them before crossing the ball for Earle, whose late appearance in the box would have brought the match-winner had Peacock not headed clear from beneath the bar.

Peacock saved another opportunity, but then Peacock is

Peacock, and he gave the ball away to Leonhardsen, whose instant pass offered Holdsworth, the substitute, a chance to claim an FA Cup semi-final place in the team. Holdsworth drove his shot strong and true, but Hislop stretched high to cling on to the ball... and a draw was a fitting end to the affair.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Perry, D. Blackwell, A. Kinsella — P. Fraser, R. Eadie, O. Leonhardsen — E. Ekoku, M. Harford, (sub: D. Holdsworth, 70), M. Lee. Newcastle (4-5-1): S. Hall — S. Wilson, D. Peacock, P. Beardsley, R. Elliott — K. Gayle, W. Barton, R. Lee, D. Barry, D. Ginola — F. Asprilla. Referee: S. Lodge.

## Limping Le Tissier remains hopeful of another escape

Southampton ..... 2  
Leicester City ..... 2

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

IT IS tough at the bottom. Southampton and Leicester City scratched out a result on Saturday which did not please either manager very much. "Sloppy goals," Matthew Le Tissier called the two Southampton gave away. When the first went in after he had cleared from the line, he kicked a post in frustration.

Would he be fit to play for England against Mexico, given the painful foot and the groin injury? With typically honesty, he replied:

"The way I feel at the moment, I couldn't do myself justice in an international."

After playing only half a game against Chelsea in midweek, Le Tissier stayed on the field for 90 minutes. It was the quicksilver little Israeli, Eyal Berkovic, who surprisingly came off after 63 minutes. He had been the salient figure of the first half, his ball skills a delight, his passing often inspired. He set up Ostendstad for the low cross shot which put Southampton ahead in the 32nd minute.

The explanation for his substitution by Southampton's worried manager, Graeme Souness, was: "I just thought the game was passing

him by. It was going over his head."

As for Le Tissier: "What we are scared of is that we're going to end up with a Paul Gascoigne situation." Meaning that Le Tissier, in England training, might exacerbate his injuries. Le Tissier himself admitted that by the end of a game his injuries stiffen up. "I struggle. I try to limp through."

Before anxiety set in after half-time, it was Southampton who played the football. Without a home win for three months, they took the game to Leicester. When the frustrated crowd shouted: "Have a shot!" they responded.

But after the interval, came the transformation. "We did better in

the second half," Martin O'Neill, Leicester's manager, said. "A cynic would say we couldn't possibly do any worse. I was just pleased to get something out of it."

The powerful, promising Emile Heskey came to life. As O'Neill said: "When he declares himself fit, he plays." Heskey's attacking partner, Steve Claridge, became more threatening, too.

Both scored goals, of a sort. Stuningly for Southampton, the first one came just a couple of minutes into the second half. Parker took an inswinging left-wing corner, Izet headed it, confusion followed. Claridge shot. Le Tissier blocked on the line, the ball went in off Heskey.

Another three minutes, however, and Southampton went ahead again from another confusing corner. Le Tissier took it from the right, Van Gool, after a scramble, drove the ball in.

But Southampton had plainly lost the plot. When Heskey, from the right, tacked past Taylor, it took a desperate horizontal block by Neilsen to keep the ball out. Heskey, a few minutes later, made space for a shot which Taylor saved.

Then, after 72 minutes, the Southampton goal fell again. Vart Gobel seemed to have won the ball in a duel with Guppy on the right wing but then lost it again. Guppy found Lennon who surged to the

byline, cut the ball back, and it eventually went into the goal off Claridge.

"We've got to show more bottle", Souness said but Le Tissier, for one, has still not given up hope of a great escape.

"I have immense self-belief, and also draw upon the experience of past years when we've been in equally sticky situations and got out of them."

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M. Taylor — U. van Gool, R. Dwyer, A. Hebest, S. Charlton — J. Magilton, R. Shaw, E. Berkovic, (sub: M. Evans, 63min), M. Oakesley — E. Ostendstad (sub: S. Barcham, 70), M. Le Tissier. LEICESTER CITY (5-2-2): K. Poole — P. Karmach (sub: J. Wines, 70), S. Wilson, M. Elliott — M. Izet, N. Lennon, G. Parker (sub: J. Lawrence, 81), S. Guppy, S. Grayson — E. Heskey, S. Claridge. Referee: K. Burge.

## Waddle unable to break the mould

Sunderland ..... 1  
Nottingham Forest ..... 1

BY RICHARD HOBSON

IT WAS sales time in the Sunderland club shop. Supporters rushed to the stack of discounted merchandise, failing to notice one new item on offer. There, in a corner, stood a row of T-shirts bearing a portrait of the local boy made good, above the words "True Colours". Chris Waddle was coming home.

Roker Park has changed little since Waddle spent some of the happiest days of his boyhood at the Fulwell End. What has evolved is the game. On Saturday, like those T-shirts, Waddle was stranded away from the centre of attention and lost in the chaos around him.

"In the second half we did not get the ball out to Chris often enough," Peter Reid, the manager, said afterwards. Football, like fashion, has its cycles and it was easy to recall the burning issue during Graham Taylor's period as England manager. Even at the age of 36, Waddle might be more effective in a free role rather than as an orthodox winger. As Taylor had many times before him, Reid indicated that the option would be considered, but not with any great enthusiasm.

Sunderland have managed to stay out of the bottom three through lung power. They have jostled, harried and cajoled and woe betide any side, such as Manchester United, that underestimates them.

Waddle was signed to vary the tempo. Thus, he slouched pasty-faced along the left flank as if in need of an oxygen mask; but appearances can

deceive, particularly where Waddle is concerned.

In the 83rd minute he switched to the right to produce his party-piece and it almost secured the victory that his side deserved. Dragging the ball along with his left foot, apparently harmlessly, he dropped his shoulder, accelerated between Roy and Pearce and shot narrowly wide.

Such moments of skill were all too rare on an afternoon full of anxiety. In the first half Bridges, a flowering talent, hit the bar and Van Hooijdonk squandered a good position at the opposite end, yet, when Ball met Waddle's corner with a thundering volley in the 61st minute, it appeared that Forest would struggle to recover. What a surprise, then, when Little shot into the far corner four minutes from the end after Sunderland failed to clear a free kick from Pearce.

Despite the recent takeover, Forest, who face Middlesbrough today, are still a club with problems. It ill-befits a side crafted by Brian Clough to rely on high balls to Van Hooijdonk. Saunders badly needs a goal; Roy a firework up the backside. Woan, a peripheral influence here, but a good player on his day, is clearly unhappy.

There is confusion over the roles of Pearce, the caretaker-manager, and Bassett, the general manager. Who is in charge? Come May, Waddle might be grateful that his proposed move to the City Ground fell through.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): L. Perez — G. Hall, L. Hooey, R. Gray, D. Kitchin — M. Gray, P. Reid, K. Ball, C. Waddle — A. Rae — M. Bridges (sub: P. Stewart, 70min). NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Croxall — D. White, C. Cooper, S. Greene, S. Pearce — D. Phillips, A. Hallard, S. Gerrard, I. Woan (sub: B. Roy, 66), D. Saunders (sub: J. Moore, 71), P. Van Hooijdonk. Referee: P. Alcock.

## Derby display will worthy of copying

Derby County ..... 4  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 2

BY DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS in Belgium, apparently, where scientists have accidentally cloned the first human. If that were north London, then it would be eminently more believable. Meet Tottenham Hotspur, the world's first football clones.

It is an interesting concept. Eleven Ruud Gullits or Bryan Robsons might win a trophy or two, but not the unidentified player Tottenham seemed to have cloned their team from. Eleven players, all skilful enough, adequate technically and probably nice lads to introduce to your mum. But passion? Spirit? Forget it. Derby County, on the other hand, now here is a team to drive the cloners up the wall. They come in all shapes and sizes, there is technique (very sketchy) in patches and no obviously blinding talent. But send them out to run at a brick wall and they would do it willingly.

It was one of those Baseball Ground afternoons. Tottenham, for all their pretty skills and fancy patterns, were never going to win this FA Carling Premiership match on Saturday. Even when they almost bizarrely found themselves back all square at 2-2 just after the interval, there was never any suggestion that they would secure victory.

If they are going to clone success at Tottenham, they must hope it is not merely physical attributes that can be reproduced. Derby displayed some of the baser requirements in achieving a victory that goes some way to ensuring Premiership survival.

They rolled up their sleeves and punched their weight.

If the scientists are able to clone managers in the future then they are unlikely to look like Jim Smith. The Derby manager, though, knows what this business is all about and he has identified the Baseball Ground as Derby's most potent weapon in their struggle against the cloying embrace of relegation.

Two wins from five remaining home games was the target he set before this match and he has got one now, thanks in large part to the emotion generated by one of the most intimidating crowds remaining in the new middle-class world of football.

The roar as Derby stepped up a gear to disperse thoughts of a Tottenham revival was intense. Sturridge was inspired on 68 minutes to beat two defenders and curl his shot past Walker, with the help of a deflection for the third goal. A minute later and the game was over with Ward, the substitute, stabbing home Dailly's knockdown.

It was the same story in the first half, a frightening intensity of noise willing goals for Van Der Laan, a volley, and a wonderful first for the club by Trollope.

Tottenham play pretty stuff that is at times effective, as goals from Rosenthal, the substitute, and a tap-in by Dozzell, after a good save by Taylor, testified. But when it mattered, Derby desired the win and Tottenham did not.

## Juninho's ball skills too much for Chelsea

Middlesbrough ..... 1  
Chelsea ..... 0

BY MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALLERS of a certain vintage used to call it "car park football". It was an aphorism for that rare player who could play the game with a liberated heart, mind and feet. In literal terms, he would perform with the same *joie de vivre* on the pitch as he would, say, on the club car park.

Juninho is a car park footballer. His game is a celebration of the moment and is not encumbered by anything except the pleasure of playing, of running, of dancing across the grass. Schoolboy-sized, he is a little lad watching his older brother's pals booting the ball around on some waste land. Ten minutes before tea-time, they succumb to his pleas and let him join in — they do not want to hurt his feelings. Thereafter, the ball and Juninho are a blur and they can no longer take part in their own game. The next day they will fight among themselves to be in Juninho's team.

If Juninho had been raised in St Helens or Swindon rather than São Paulo, he would not be a car park footballer, and perhaps not a professional footballer at all. Coaches would have deemed his marvellous dribbling to be greedy and indulgent. He would have been trampled into the mud, told to attend another trial when he had put on a few stone in weight.

By a circuitous route, Juninho has arrived in the North East of England and, on Saturdays, at least, there is now a speck of beauty among Middlesbrough's pylons, cooling towers, chemical works and shopping precincts. This

beauty stays with people all week, in the offices and factories. It sweetens their lives. In a recent supporter's poll, Juninho was voted Middlesbrough's best ever foreign player by a remarkable distance. He received 78 per cent of the votes, while Ravaneli and Emerson scored just 3 per cent and 2 per cent.

Chelsea, poor souls, found Juninho in irresistible form. They sometimes got close enough to clip his heel or bundle him to the turf, but Juninho was up again, ready to accept their apologies. This benign temperament and a general willingness to work for the team has consolidated the adoration.

Middlesbrough dominated from the start, but failed to score until eight minutes after half-time. Juninho threaded through the defence, passed to Beck and he crossed to the near post where Juninho gleefully headed home.

Chelsea, who had hitherto been lethargic and without imagination, pressed forward and the remainder of the match was joyously exciting, with chances made and missed.

However, the exhilaration of Juninho's day was matched by the wretchedness of Vialli's, who had made one of his infrequent full appearances. His control was poor, his shooting dire and he was plagued by the kind of ill luck that, on another day, would see him miss two buses and be run over by the third.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-1-2): M. Schwarzer — N. Pearson, G. Fazio, C. Fleming — N. Cox, P. Stamp (sub: A. Moore, 25min), S. Vialli, 68), Emerson, C. Blackmore — Juninho — M. Beck, C. Nugent. CHELSEA (2-5-2): F. Groves — F. Sander, S. Clarke, E. Johnson (sub: M. Hughes, 40), D. Preece (sub: P. Parker, 70), D. Butler, D. Wise, R. Di Matteo (sub: P. Hughes, 70), S. Minto — G. Zola, G. Vialli. Referee: M. Riley.

## Redknapp delights in impact of timely arrivals

Coventry City ..... 1  
West Ham United ..... 3

BY PAT GIBSON

HARRY REDKNAPP was at his wits' end. It was not just the fact that his West Ham United side could not score goals in the FA Carling Premiership, he could not even see them scoring on the training ground when they were playing against each other.

Then he spent £5.5 million on John Hartson and Paul Kitson, the goals started to come and 11 points from their past six games have not only lifted them out of the bottom three, but also suggested that they may not have to keep going through this sort of thing every season.

"It was an impossible situation," Redknapp said after Hartson, aided and abetted by Kitson, had scored two of the goals that enabled West Ham to put three points and plenty of troubled sky blue water between themselves and Coventry City, who may have gone to the brink once too often.

"I never said it publicly or even to the team," Redknapp said. "But I thought to myself, 'how can I win football matches when I haven't got the players who can score goals?' I knew we could not survive. Once these two arrived, it gave the rest of the players a lift and they started to believe that we could win some games."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, must wish it was all that simple. He thought he had the players capable of winning games, more than £20 million worth of them, but they are either not listening to what he tells them or, for some reason best known to themselves, choosing to ignore him.

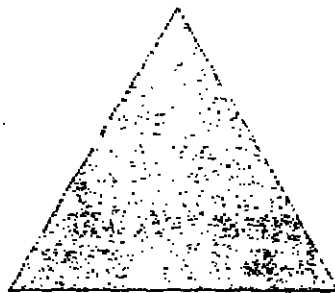
They started well enough. Huckerby leading a series of lightning raids that resulted in Rieper, under pressure from Dublin, heading a Richardson cross into his own goal after eight minutes.

After that, however, they simply lost their way and Hartson and Kitson made them pay. In the 27th minute, Kitson deftly headed on Moncur's cross and Hartson steered it past Ogrizovic. Seven minutes later, Kitson again got a vital touch to allow Ferdinand to poke the ball in.

Then, four minutes into the second half, Kitson's shot rebounded to Hartson, who finished with a crisp shot.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S. Ogrizovic — G. Strachan, D. Dublin, R. Shaw — P. Teller, G. Huckerby, R. Richardson, P. Williams, M. Hall (sub: P. Nwulu, 51min) — N. Whelan (sub: B. Rotherham, 60), D. Huckerby. WEST HAM UNITED (3-3-1): L. Milosavljevic — T. Brasher (sub: K. Rowland, 33), S. Potts, S. Bilec, M. Rieper, J. Doble — R. Ferdinand (sub: I. Dowds, 80), J. Bishop (sub: H. Portillo, 45), J. Moncur — P. Kitson, J. Hartson. Referee: M. Reed.

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FOOTBALL: THIRD WIN IN FIVE GAMES SINCE THE RETURN OF COPPELL HELPS TO SECURE FIFTH PLACE

# McKenzie pounces to fuel Palace momentum

Oldham Athletic ..... 0  
Crystal Palace ..... 1

BY PETER BALL

CRYSTAL Palace continued their impressive run of results under Steve Coppell at Boundary Park yesterday. Leon McKenzie's second goal in successive games brought them their third win in five games under Coppell, taking them up into fifth position.

With games in hand on all the teams above them except Barnsley, and six of their remaining nine games at home, they are handily placed, with the second automatic promotion place in their sights. Even the auspices are in their favour — this was only their second double over Oldham Athletic, the first was in 1989, when they won promotion under Coppell.

"You can't discount it," Ray Houghton, the Palace midfielder, said afterwards. "Bolton are already up, but then the next 11 teams are probably still in with a chance."

Never mind the quality, feel the width. As the league table suggests, Bolton are the outstanding team by some distance in the Nationwide League first division this season, but, short of some serious strengthening at back and front, where McGinlay has already been found wanting as a striker at the top level, their only realistic aim will be survival. The rest are much of a muchness. It sounds silly, but, in recent weeks, Manchester City have looked a better team than any of the teams above them, Bolton apart.

"I can't see there's much difference between top and bottom," Neil Warnock, the Oldham manager, said after the game, and few could argue. Certainly on this form it is hard to see Palace as realistic contenders.

Oldham looked what they

are, a team struggling against relegation, battling desperately, but short of composure and confidence, especially in front of goal, where they wasted enough chances to have won two or three matches.

Despite a wonderful start, with a goal after two minutes, Palace were not much better. Only the confidence of their run of results giving them a veneer that Oldham lacked.

With Hopkin suspended, Houghton came back in for a quiet return after his three months out, but Rodger was dynamic as the holding man in midfield; and both front pairs proved a constant handful for the Oldham defence, the 18-year-old McKenzie, the son of Clinton and nephew of Duke, proving as lethal in front of goal as they were in the ring.

How Warnock must have looked longingly at the Palace bench, with Shipperley and Freedman staying there until the hour, as McKenzie and Dyer were given first go. It worked inside two minutes, Dyer shrugging aside Hodgson to cross for McKenzie to put a free header past Kelly.

That, though, was Palace's best moment. "We lost the initiative after a terrific start," Coppell said, and they were fortunate not to lose more.

With Nash flapping at crosses, Oldham had the chances to win, but Barlow, McCarthy and Serrant missed the best of them, and Palace survived, leaving Oldham anchored in the relegation zone, and with Bolton and Barnsley lying in wait. "Don't write us off, not in this league," Warnock warned.

Reference: R Houghton.



Rodger, of Crystal Palace, is sent tumbling by Orlingsson, the Oldham substitute, at Boundary Park yesterday

## Home pride sustains Rovers

Bristol Rovers ..... 1  
Preston North End ..... 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRISTOL Rovers were afforded a warm reception as they ran out on to the Memorial Ground yesterday. "C'mon Gas," the public address announcer bellowed, using the colloquial term of affection. "Come on Rovers, pride of the West Country. Let's do it!" And so they did.

While "pride of the West Country" was a shade strong, a touch of blinkered blue-and-white optimism, Rovers were good value for their victory. It ended a sequence of four successive defeats and gives them a six-point cushion from the horrors lurking below in the Nationwide League second division basement.

"You saw a lot of passion out there today and that's what

you'll see from us now on, win or lose," Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager, said. "We rolled our sleeves up and had a right go. There were no boys out there, only men."

That Preston North End — hovering in mid-table, going nowhere — appeared patently disinterested, at least until they went behind, also helped the Rovers cause. When the Preston players' packers are made up, Gary Peter, the manager, should perhaps consider a disciplinary deduction.

Apart from Gregan, in midfield, and Moyes and Wilcox, at the back, Preston were poor. It was as if they were already contemplating the summer break, safe in the knowledge that the promotion or relegation issues do not concern them.

Even Moyes contrived to head over what should have been the equaliser, with five minutes left, from Ashcroft's

inviting cross. Before his gargantuan gaffe, Moyes had held together the Preston defence, with Wilcox, against the constant aerial threat of Beadle and Alsop.

Rovers' twin strikeforce may lack refinement, but the pair make up for it in height, heart and wholesome work rate. When Beadle's about, the opposition usually knows it. Though too often favouring his left foot, he continually bustles and bundles his way around the pitch. Alsop, playing his trade at Halesowen only six weeks ago, is a mirror image, all energy and enthusiasm. When the rough edges have been honed, he could prove quite a capture at £15,000.

Cureton, an impish, will-o'-the-wisp winger, complements the pair perfectly. He antagonises his markers into errors by persistent running and has a nose for the half-

chance, too. Only seconds after the restart Rovers, having huffed and puffed unsuccessfully in a drab first half, he made the breakthrough.

Beadle beavered away on the left before lashing over a swirling cross that neither Moyes, Wilcox nor O'Hanlon, the Preston goalkeeper, were able to deal with. So Cureton nipped in to toe-poke home his tenth goal of the season.

Preston responded belatedly. One of their less orthodox efforts was O'Hanlon's wind-assisted clearance that bounced once before nestling on a stanchion on top of the net. Rovers survived and, for a day at least, could claim to be the pride of the West Country.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Cooke — D. Prichard, T. White, A. Tilson, M. Lockwood — J. Cureton, I. Holloway, J. Sumner, T. Barnes — J. Alsop, P. Beadle. PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): K. O'Hanlon — K. Gage (sub: K. Moyes, R. Ashcroft, S. Greaves, I. Bryson, L. Ashcroft — K. Nisgen, D. Reeves. Reference: G. Smith.

## Cambridge try wide-ranging possibilities

David Miller believes a change of style may yet bear fruit at the Abbey Stadium

Times have changed at the Abbey Stadium. Nowadays you can often see the ball in the not-so-distant promotion years under John Beck, it was often out of sight above the roofline for those at the back of the grandstand.

The present Cambridge United team, inherited mid-season by Roy McFarland, tries to play football and succeeded to some degree in the 2-2 draw with Chester City on Saturday.

Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City director of football, was present to watch Micah Hyde, a midfielder player with a touch of David Rocastle about him but needing a touch of Paul Ince to give him bite.

Thirty seconds from time it seemed that Hyde had made the winner, though by then Atkinson had left to be ahead of the crowd — all 3,044 of them. Frustratingly for Hyde, his perfect cross and an equally perfect header by Kyd on the near post were judged offside by the linesman. So Chester escaped with the draw that keeps them one place and one point ahead of Cambridge in the battle to maintain play-off positions in the Nationwide League third division.

I was level with the linesman and considered his decision a lottery hand-out in favour of Chester. To balance this misfortune for Cambridge, it must be said that the same linesman's flag had remained static when Wanless beat, though not legally, Chester's offside trap for Barnwell to put his side two up after only seven minutes. Wanless had looked a good three yards clear when Taylor played the ball through.

Two months ago Cambridge were lying second in the table, but then came a slump of five defeats in seven matches. A side previously promotion-bound cannot be said to have consolidated under McFar-

land, yet the policy of regularly getting the ball out to the flanks may yet pay dividends over the remaining eight matches.

Someone unkindly remarked that Cambridge's quartered shirt design makes them look like automobile crash-test dummies, but in the first few minutes it was Chester who were suffering from impact.

In the fifth minute Ashby's acute drive from the left of the goalmouth into a crowd of players struck the unsuspecting Sinclair, the Chester goalkeeper, and flew into the net. Then came Wanless's moment of fortune, his initial shot rebounding to Barnwell who scored easily.

Chester's response was swift. Within two minutes Aiston crossed from the left, Flitcroft, from the other flank, headed back into the goalmouth and the veteran, Rimmer, scored from close range.

A seven-year-old home supporter was dismayed when queuing for his tea at half-time to learn that Rimmer has scored 141 goals for Chester, until it was explained that they had not all been this season.

Chester controlled much of the rest of the first half and it was due reward when Milner won a duel with Joseph on the edge of the penalty area and then lobbed over the advancing Barrett to level the scores.

Taylor struck a post straight from the kick-off in the second half and, 15 minutes from time, Flitcroft, with only Barrett to beat, squandered his chance to give Chester the winner.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Barnes — P. Rayner, J. Chadwick, M. Joseph, C. Woodward — I. Ashby, P. Wanless, M. Hyde, A. Hayes — J. Taylor, P. Barnwell (sub: M. Kyd, T. Yarnall). CHESTER CITY (4-4-2): R. Sinclair — R. Davidson, S. Whelan, J. Alistair, J. Jenkins — D. Flitcroft, S. Field, C. Priest, S. Aiston — S. Rimmer (sub: J. Jones, 69), A. Miller. Reference: B. Coddington.

## Runaway leaders maintain the pace

Norwich City ..... 0  
Bolton Wanderers ..... 1

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT MUST be depressing for Nationwide League first division clubs to see Bolton Wanderers looming on their fixture list, and know that they can forget about those three vital points for another week.

It was the turn of Norwich City on Saturday, who needed a victory after slipping out of the play-off places the previous weekend. Surprisingly, there was optimism beforehand about the prospect of regaining lost ground at the expense of the runaway league leaders. There was even a bright opening, some neat inter-passing and one superbly incisive move as Fleck's pass gave Sutch a chance that he drove past the near post.

Bolton, though, were not to be denied for long. In the 24th minute Nathan Blake muscled his way on to a pass down the left, held the ball up and put it into the path of Scott Sellers who, in turn, put it into the far corner of Dunn's goal.

Although Norwich came close through O'Neill and Milligan in the second half, there was never much doubt from then on that Bolton would achieve their 24th victory of the campaign, their ninth away from home.

"Yes, it's a nice feeling," Keith Branagan, the Bolton goalkeeper, said. "I've got a good side in front of me; we are strong and can score goals from anywhere."

"They were very disciplined, and made it difficult," Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, said. "We deserved something out of it, and, against a lesser team than Bolton, we would have got something." It was, in all probability, the 24th time that a manager has said that this season.

NORWICH CITY (3-4-1-2): G. Gunn — C. Bradshaw, M. Jacobs, R. Newman, A. Adams, I. Cross (sub: D. Brown, 67min), M. Milligan, D. Sutch — K. O'Neill (sub: A. Forbes, 72) — R. Fleck, D. Eddie. BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Branagan — S. McManis, C. Fereday, G. Luggan, J. Phillips — J. Pothol, P. Frankson, A. Thompson, S. Sellers — J. McGinlay, N. Blake. Reference: W. Burns.

## Sympathy running out for tarnished hero of Ibrox

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

dling career that the England player now meets with jaded exasperation. In the wake of suggestions that Rangers are about to dispense with his troublesome services, Gascoigne's statement asserted that he would, in fact, remain until the end of his contract in 1998. Perhaps he will.

Gascoigne has been valuable to Rangers and, before his ankle injury in January, he had scored 17 goals this season. The Ibrox side look anxious without him, as they did on Saturday in losing 2-1 to Kilmarnock at home.

Before Gascoigne can go, Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, needs to know who will replace him. If the club is to recoup most of the £4.3 million paid to Lazio in 1995, they must rehabilitate his reputation by getting him fit and restoring him to action.

Even then, Gascoigne, who will be 30 in May, is under no obligation to acquiesce in such schemes. Might he not contin-

ue to insist on seeing out his contract, ensuring that he is a free agent next year?

Gascoigne's statement was issued to Sunday newspapers because Smith had wished to protect the Kilmarnock fixture from any furor. As it was, his depleted side were lethargic and looked as if a jolt of controversy might have been helpful. They could have equalised in the last minute, when they were refused a blatant penalty, but Kilmarnock merited victory. The outcome was exhilarating for the visitors, who reduced the risk of relegation, but it left Rangers with only a flesh wound, since Celtic managed no more than a 2-2 draw at Dunfermline Athletic. The Ibrox club, with a seven-point lead, can still expect the championship.

Kilmarnock, though, extended a welcome invitation to look beyond this tawdry season. On their left wing, Alex Burke, 19, showed once again that he can combine flamboyance and technique, as he did with one drag-back that deceived Alex Cleland and led Craig Moore to barge him to the ground.

As he lay there, Alan McLaren petulantly threw the ball at him. While it was ugly behaviour, the irritability meant that Burke was also being tossed a compliment. The teenager's mere presence was a reminder that, before long, time will begin to strip even Gascoigne of his fame.

## Heybridge's hopes end swiftly

Heybridge Swifts ..... 0  
Woking ..... 1

BY WALTER GAMMIE

HEYBRIDGE Swifts, the Icicle League club, stage-managed the day that drew 2,477, the biggest crowd seen at their Scrayle Road ground, with considerable style. Unfortunately, the result failed to match the previous round, when they had beaten Kidderminster Harriers 3-0, as Woking, the FA Umbro Trophy winners in 1994 and 1995, reached the semi-finals. Woking, of the Vauxhall

Conference, secured their victory in the 67th minute when Heybridge failed to clear a low corner by Clive Walker. Kingsley Banks, the goalkeeper, could not gather the ball cleanly and Andy Ellis turned it home.

On the two occasions that Heybridge had a clear sight of goal, Wye cleared Caldron's effort off the line and Gregory blocked a shot by Caldron. Kidderminster had a harrowing afternoon at Bower Fold, losing 4-1 to Stalybridge Celtic, while Macclesfield Town won their seventh successive league match, 3-0 at home to Gates-

head, to gain a clear edge in the race for the conference. HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS (4-4-2): K. Banks — M. Cranfield, M. Keen, A. Bani, A. Vickers — A. Zeeah, K. Game, M. Spragg, M. Jones — G. Caldron, S. Harding (sub: W. Adcock, 50min). WOKING (4-4-2): J. Gregory — K. Brown, V. Howard, S. Foster — S. Wye, S. Thompson, A. Ellis, R. Taylor — S. Steele — D. Hay, C. Walker. Reference: G. Willard.

Paul Pitman's last-minute goal ensured Whitby Town a 1-1 draw over Banstead Athletic, a 2-1 aggregate victory and a passage to Wembley on May 10 for the FA Carlsberg Vase final. They will meet North Ferriby United, who drew 1-1 at home to Guisborough Town, to go with a 2-0 first leg away victory.

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# Emerging Italy hit champions for six

**FROM DAVID HANDS**  
**RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**  
**IN GRENOBLE**

shows, Italy's results this season place them higher than Ireland and Scotland in an unofficial six nations' tournament (they also have the effect of making England champions). Bear in mind, too, that only one of those games was played at home, though, if there is one foreign city heavily flavoured by an immigrant Italian population, it is Girona.

The point at issue for the home unions is to balance the popularity and traditions of what they have with the good that they can do Italian rugby. British administrators may point to the crowd on Saturday — around 10,000 — and complain that the Italians will not be a commercial success.



The first, in a frantic opening period, was by Francesco and gave the Italians a lead that they conceded only during a brief period of the first half. They prospered, moreover, despite struggling initially in the scrums and suffering in the lineout, where only Croci offered a consistent challenge. Their success was founded firmly on a quite outstanding defence, in which all three back-row forwards excelled, while Gardner, the Australian, also produced his most effective attacking game for his adopted country.

Several France players looked as though they expected to be as of right, particularly when a penalty tripped them on the left-hand side, when Boudry scored the first of his two tries with a crisp break that carried France to 20-20 shortly after the interval.

Italy, though, never ceased to prey on French mistakes, to seize turn-overs and to move the ball adventurously wide. The try that convinced them that they could win owed its being to just that mood. It started with Vaccari fumbling at a loose ball ten metres from his own line, yet he whipped round, set off up the touchline and found his locks and support. Massimo Cuttitta chimed in, then Troncon was off and the balding Crochi cruised up to finish a wonderful movement.

[illegible]

Dominguez, who missed only the first of his nine kicks at goal, embellished the lead with penalty goals and it stretched to 30 points when Perile ran out of deep defence. Though the move appeared to founder ten metres short, Sadourny's relieving kick fell to Gardner, whose rampant charge took him through three defenders before an overhead pass sent Vaccari skidding to

"If others are not certain about us, let them come and see for themselves," Dondoli said. His union has an agreement with Tele Monte Carlo that, though it does not bring a fee, ensures that everyone can watch Italy internationally without any pay-per-view involvement. "We respect everyone else's views about us and we seek to be part of the five nations' on merit," he added.

F. Kourou (Marbore), P. Benetton (Agnet), O. Miele (Montebianco), H. Maffion (Toucouze), A. Costes (Montebianco), F. Peloux (Dax, captain), Costes replaced by S. Besson (Besset, Saint), Dalmisio replaced by J. Besson (Besset, Saint), ITALY: J. Pirella (Rome), P. Vaccari (Calviostro), S. Sordani (Rovigo), I. Francesco (Treviso), Marcello Cutillet (Mistri), D. Dominguez (Milan), A. Troncon (Treviso), Massimo Cutillet (Milan), C. Croci (Treviso), G. Croci (Treviso), Giovanni (F.U.C. captain), C. Croci (Treviso), W. Cristofolotti (Treviso), A. Sgorlon (Treviso), J. Gerdner (Treviso), Francesco replaced by F. Mezzarini (Treviso, 25); G.-L. Gatti (Lombard) temporary replacement for Treviso; D. Nigh (Milan) Referee, D. Nigh (Milan)

FROM ALISON KERVIN  
IN HONG KONG

"It has been extremely difficult for any northern-hemisphere sides to train for this tournament because of 15-a-side commitments," Andrew Harri-

**BY PETER BILLS**

**SALES:** J Mellinder, D Rees, D Wright, C Yates, S Verbruggen, J Barendse, J O'Reilly, P Winstanley, S Diamond, M Driver, D Erskine, D Baldwin, J Fowler, D O'Grady, J Mitchell. Erskine replaced by N Ashurst (87).

**BY BRYAN STILES**

Cardiff.....	57
South Wales Police.....	30

BY GERALD DAVIES

To succeed in this way means that he had to vary his alignment to create the space. This season this has not happened. Either the failing has not been brought to his attention or he has been unable or unwilling to adjust

**s glad to  
tre of att**

Full results and league tables ....Page 34

Wasps captain, must have thought that he was performing in the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong — a tournament from which he withdrew through illness — so frisky were his charges before the interval.

Dallaglio was at the heart

**BY GERALD DAVIES**

To succeed in this way means that he had to vary his alignment to create the space. This season this has not happened. Either the failing has not been brought to his attention or he has been unable or unwilling to adjust



**Leigh Davies: high scorer**



**SOUTH WALES POLICE:** P Sparrow, D Thomas, J Apce, S Pritchard, R James, J Price, G Jones, M Randall, M Poole, G Bundoick, R Andrews, N Jones, S Rees, S Legge, I Hemmibour, Andrews replaced by M Gidd (41); Bundoick replaced by P Jones (48); Pritchard replaced by M Titchell (24).

**Referee:** W D Bevan (Cardiff)

**BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE**

and Cinderford, Thanet had plenty still to do as the second half unfolded, yet kept their nerve, battled back by doing the basics correctly, then conjured a try to take the game into extra time.

Approaching the hour, however, Thanet should have been

Harper, J Ward; R Guild, C Smith, T Carlier;  
A Michael, P Hughes, G Hingley, C Manson,  
D Langley, Michael replaced by S Harne  
(76m); Hingley replaced by J Aslett (90);  
Radmond replaced by M Pond (92)  
SUDBURY: D Beemling, G Evans, J  
Cowling, R Sumner, A Tibbles, M Jury, S  
Hartley, F Banks, S Eccell, R Ward, D  
Williams, I Howett, S Penegar, S Bull, G  
Atherton Jury replaced by D Minter (17);  
Ward replaced by M Burman (76); J  
Cowling replaced by K Cowling (92)  
Referee: S Scaunce (Narrowacre)

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Silva; G Truelove, L Botham, J Connolly, S Johns, C John, M Rodenick, D Barnes, A Peacock, W de Jonge, M Emmerson, C Murphy, K Moseley, R Earnshaw, I Morgan, De Jonge replaced by P Whitecock (54); Botham replaced by J Stabler (60); Rodenick replaced by T Harvey (60).

man, the England manager, said. Indeed, it was Fiji who dominated the tournament from day one. They notched up cricket scores against the smaller teams, dispensing with Western Samoa in their semi-final before beating South Africa in style.

**SCORERS:** Fiji: Tries: Koroi (2).  
Erenavula, Vunibaka. Conversions:  
Serevi (2) South Africa: Tries: Venter  
(2), Brink. Conversions: Brink (3).  
Fiji: J. Tukube, A. Nantuyaga, L. Koroi,  
W. Serevi, M. Ban, L. Erenavula, M.  
Vunibaka. Koroi replaced by T.  
Nakolekele.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** A. Venter, P.  
Roussouw, B. Stunzard, A. Snyman, J. van  
der Westhuizen, S. Brink, J. Olivier.  
Olivier replaced by B. Paise, Snyman  
replaced by J. P. P.



John Hopkins tries to keep up with a sporting celebrity on a whirlwind weekend

## Offiah still intent on cracking two codes

Just before 1pm on Friday a black Mercedes drove out through the gates of Buckingham Palace. It was one of those limousines with darkened windows favoured by people who pretend that they do not want to be seen but do really. When it stopped and the windows were wound down, you could see that Martin Offiah was in the front passenger seat, holding up his MBE insignia — awarded for services to rugby — that the Prince of Wales had just presented to him. In the back seat were his mother, Regina, in a multicoloured dress and with a smile as wide as Africa, and Zara, his girlfriend.

It was a glorious spring day, and by now Offiah's odyssey was well under way. He had woken just after seven o'clock and had been driven to the Palace for the investiture.

**'Yet he seems slightly out of place in both'**

In the next 27 hours Offiah would play a game of rugby league for London Broncos and a rugby union match for Bedford.

This hectic, publicity-driven stunt would come to a rousing conclusion with him making a try-scoring dash for the line to seal Bedford's 32-11 victory over Rotherham. It was symbolic, however, that Offiah, who had left the Palace on Friday in a chauffeur-driven Mercedes, had to caddy a lift from Rotherham rugby ground on Saturday in a Citroën Xantia, driven by a team-mate.

Who is this tall, slim and rather shy man, uneasy with the media, not yet a part of the Bedford rugby union team for whom he recently signed, and not fully integrated into the London Broncos, the rugby league team in which Richard Branson's Virgin Group recently bought a much-heralded interest? Offiah is a man who has crossed codes and yet seems slightly out of place in both. He is of both union and league, yet truly of neither.

Sometimes the publicity that he generates works to his cost. His much-vaunted helicopter ride from Battersea to Manchester before the Super League game against Warrington Wolves will not be repeated. "I've not been up in a helicopter before and I shan't be going up in a helicopter

again," he said on Friday night. He was asked how he was getting to the game for Bedford against Rotherham the next day? "In a car, mate."

There is a roundabout only a decent punt from Warrington's ground. It is named after Brian Bevan, rugby league's highest try-scorer, and dominated by a statue of Bevan and three rugby posts. The floodlights were switched on and they cast an eerie shadow over the statue as Offiah, modern rugby league's most devastating try-scorer, made his way to the ground. However, he began the game in the shadows out on the left wing, the Broncos won easily, 38-18, Offiah touched the ball only nine times and he scarcely muddled his white shorts.

On Saturday afternoon Offiah, inconspicuous in a black training suit, sat on the bench. Not having trained with Bedford for two weeks, he had no aspirations to play and it was only when Marcus Cooke was injured that Offiah took the field. "Martin has not been as effective for us as we would like and I am sure he would like," Geoff Cooke, the director of rugby at Bedford, said.

"What has he scored — ten or 11 tries for us in eight or nine games? Union is so much more crowded than league. Judging a run for a ball from a ruck in union is much less predictable. Martin is his own man. He is not really a team man. He certainly is not your usual rugby type."

Is Offiah an ageing star doing the rounds before *anno domini* takes all the speed from his legs? Perhaps but he still has a genuine appeal. He might not have made much impression at Warrington on Friday, but, the moment that he took the pitch at Rotherham, one small boy said to another: "There he is. There's Martin Offiah."

Cooke said: "There is a real buzz around the ground the moment Martin gets the ball. This is sometimes followed a moment or two later by a groan when he is tackled." Perhaps Offiah is worth the £400,000 that his manager said he earns from his cross-codes contracts.



Offiah caps his weekend in style by bursting clear to score for Bedford with only his third touch of the ball. Photograph: Marc Aspland



After popping in at the Palace for his gong, Offiah prepares to be airlifted to Warrington, where he helps London Broncos to a 38-18 victory



Offiah is not an easy communicator. After the game on Friday he sat in a room beneath the main stand, looking ill at ease. He wore a royal blue denim shirt, white trousers, brown slip-on shoes. Cradled in his hand was his mobile phone, that symbol of the 90s without which no celebrity is complete. His eyes darted around, as if searching for a friendly face.

He was asked to explain the difference between union and league. He gulped and forced a joke: "That's an essay question. Anyone who has watched the two games knows the difference. League is a lot more physically demanding game, union is a lot more complex. You don't get so many running chances in the backs in union. Today our forwards played pretty well."

I've played in union when I don't think I've touched the ball once.

"In union the players are much fitter than they used to be. They close things down, work a lot harder. Without a doubt the level of fitness is the biggest difference. English rugby used to be a bit set-piece to set-piece. I find now there is a lot less space."

The special aspect of a rugby union game has changed. You can't have a professional game and have a big social thing afterwards. There are so many prizes for winning. Bedford have to get into the first division. If Bedford don't, I'm sure Frank Warren is not going to be too happy after he has invested so much money. I see quite a lot of Frank. He is chairman of the club. He has a hands-on role now. He said at his last press conference that it was his money, so he is going to dictate how it is going to be spent.

"I have signed for Bedford for four years. I have signed for the Broncos for three years. Then I'm going to be a long time retired. I've got to make the most of this couple of years and then seek other employment." He is certainly doing that.

### ICE HOCKEY

## Nottingham negotiate marathon semi-final

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

IN THE longest game in the history of British ice hockey, Nottingham Panthers beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 6-5 to qualify for the Superleague championship final next Saturday, where they will meet Sheffield Steelers, who were 5-2 winners over Cardiff Devils in the other semi-final.

With 54 minutes of regulation time to go, and Ayr leading 5-2, Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, queried the legality of Ryan Kummus's stick. The curvature of the blade was found to be over the limit and, during the resulting Nottingham power play, Ian Bishop scored to narrow the gap to two. Neil Morgan and Bishop then brought the Panthers level within the next 80 seconds and what had looked like a convincing Ayr victory became an extraordinary battle.

The teams embarked on a ten-minute sudden death overtime period, but it proved to be the first of five such periods which failed to produce a goal. It was not until the sixth minute of the sixth extra session that Jeff Hoad scored to bring the Panthers their hard-earned success.

That ended 115 minutes and 49 seconds of actual playing time and the game took four hours and 33 minutes to complete. Both goaltenders — Sven Ramf, of Ayr, and Trevor Robins, of Nottingham — made some spectacular saves during overtime, knowing that one small mistake could cost their team the game. Robins, asked if he had found it difficult to maintain concentration over such a long period, said: "Concentration is tougher at the start, but in a long game like that, it is essential to keep a positive frame of mind; the fatigue factor is the biggest problem."

For Kummus, it was an amazing lapse as he had been penalised for the same offence in a quarter-final game against Manchester Storm. Had Blaisdell seen that on television? "I read about it," he said, "but I was desperate and we needed a power play."

Ironically, the winning goal came after Bishop had been sent to the penalty box for a holding offence, but Hoad broke away and sank his own rebound for the winner.

Sheffield's win over Cardiff seemed mundane by comparison. It was something of a surprise, as the Devils had had the better of their league meetings this season, but the Steelers played a strong, disciplined defensive game and never allowed Cardiff to settle.

Results, page 33

## St Helens accept early invitation to final

St Helens..... 50  
Salford Reds..... 20

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SUCH is the overwhelming sense of confidence at St Helens that, several minutes before the end of a crushing Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final victory, joyous supporters were having leaflets advertising Wembley packages pressed into their hands.

It was strange to hear Shaun McRae, their Australian coach, insist that at no time in the match had he felt comfortable, because it is the self-belief that he has preached in the past 14 months that has put steel in the St Helens spine. Wigan have handed out countless master classes at Central Park, but the one given by St Helens on Saturday was especially humbling.

Poor Salford. Only Wigan's freakish 71-point drubbing of Bradford five years ago

spared them conceding the heaviest defeat in a semi-final. It is easy to criticise the gamble on Cartwright and Platt, who were not alone in carrying injuries, but Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, was honest enough to admit that even a fully-fit side would not have stopped a rampant St Helens.

McRae was probably alone among the 12,580 at Central Park in biting his lip. In Private Fraser's favourite word, Salford — "Dad's Army" — appeared "doomed" from the beginning. Pitchfork-carrying veterans are no match for swaggering young guns. St Helens bristled with pace, nerve and intuition and long before the finish Salford's weary tacklers had bowed to the inevitable.

Bobbie Goulding, who ends a six-match suspension next month for his dismissal in the fourth round defeat of Wigan, has much for which to be grateful. There is little doubt that he, not Lee Briers will be

the St Helens scrum half at Wembley on May 3, but the youngster has coped admirably, not least on Saturday with six from eight goal attempts, while being guided and cajoled by the excellence of Tommy Martyn outside him.

Julian O'Neill, who is improving in the front row with every appearance, is the one newcomer in a side whose

Full results and league tables ....Page 34

assurance and cocksure manner has swelled with winning the Challenge Cup and Super League last year. Perhaps only Bradford, who McRae expects to beat Leeds in the other semi-final at Huddersfield on Saturday, can best exploit the lapses that allowed Blakeley, Rogers and McAvoy their second half tries.

With the exception of Leeds, nobody would quibble with

another St Helens v Bradford final to celebrate the competition's centenary after the classic last year. "Having been to Wembley and tasted success, we wouldn't like not to have gone again," McRae said. "There's a theory that you have to get beaten in a final to win one. If Bradford get through, I just hope that doesn't work out."

Although Keiron Cunningham took the man-of-the-match award, embellished by a stunning individual try and some risible tackling on Salford's part, there were any number of candidates. Karl Hammond's switch from stand-off to loose forward last season has proved productive. Three times his subtle timing and passes in midfield unlocked the Salford defence to release the unstoppable Alan Hunte down the right.

Down the left flank, Salford were no less wobbly. Anthony Sullivan's hat-trick was completed in 22 minutes. By far the best of his tries was the first, as Newlove swotted off

four would-be tacklers. A hapless Salford trio was so busy tracking the centre they were thrown off the scent by his neat switch infield to Sullivan.

Salford were justified in their grievance about the build-up to the try by Joynnt half-time. Rogers was wrongly judged to have made contact with the kick put up by Martyn, which allowed St Helens six extra tackles from which they made the score 14-4.

For the final, helter-skelter try by Prescott, Salford had already retreated, while St Helens supporters were booking their trips to London.

SCORERS: St Helens: Three: Hunte (3), Sullivan (3), Joynnt. Cunningham, Prescott. Goals: Briers (6), Martyn. Salford: Goals: Blakeley (4). ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, A Hunte, P Newlove, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynnt, A Perrelli, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynnt, C Mckillop, K Hammond. Substitutes: I Presqueux, V Maszume, D Mckillop, A Northey. Salford: Reds: D Rogers, F Snel, S Haylor, N McAvoy, P O'Shea, S Blakely, I Warrace, A Platt, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forster, J Cartwright, D Hume, Substitutes: L Sovello, C Randall, E Fairbro, S Martin. Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)

## Shannon tread well-worn trail to another title

Shannon..... 15  
Terenure College..... 12

By KARL JOHNSTON

LIMERICK'S annual Civic Week is in full swing, and those who chose to attend local attractions other than the Insurance Corporation League rugby union match at Thomond Park on Saturday should be congratulated on their judgment. The absence of tries tells it like it was a dreary encounter, dominated by the goalkeepers — Andrew Thompson, of Shannon, and Girvan Dempsey, for Terenure.

Not that the Shannon faithful will worry. Their team took another, albeit faltering, step towards a third successive league title, the winning of

which now looks a near-certainty. However, they were somewhat fortunate to get past opponents who refused to be overawed.

Before this match Shannon had experienced a few close shaves in the defence of their league title. Last Saturday they were thoroughly unconvincing, as turned-over possession and knock-ons proliferated.

Once, late in the first half, Shannon moved the ball well, when Billy O'Shea all but broke the cover, but, with the pack providing only spasmic clean possession, chances for the backs were at a premium.

By contrast, Terenure launched far more promising attacks, featuring some good running by Claran Clarke, the full back, and the inventive Michael Smyth in the centre. Shan-

non's defence was, though, as well organised and resolute as usual.

A draw may have been a fairer result, though Terenure's supporters can point to the two missed goal kicks by Dempsey. Thompson, whose form as a goal-kicker tends to blow hot and cold for Shannon, also missed a veritable sitter, from the 22-metre line.

The two exchanged penalty goals within the first 16 minutes, before Dempsey's second successful kick, left Terenure leading 6-3 at half-time. Then, he and Thompson each landed two more goals to leave Shannon trailing 12-9 at the start of the final quarter.

It was then that Terenure's luck ran out. First Mark Egan was penalised at a lineup and Thompson's fourth penalty goal tied the scores with some

12 minutes left. A promising Terenure offensive then broke down, Shannon roared back, the Terenure forwards handled in a ruck and Thompson kicked Shannon into the lead. Only Dungannon, Old Crescent and Instonians stand between Shannon and that third league triumph, and the match at Stevenson Park this Saturday is likely to be their only real test in the pursuit of victory.

SCORERS: Shannon: Penalty goals: Thompson (5). Terenure College: Penalty goals: Dempsey (4). SHANNON: P Murphy, B O'Shea, A McGrath, C McDermott, A Thompson, J Galvin, G Russell, J Hickey, J Deegan, N Healy, A Quinn, R Sherriff, M Galloway, E Hickey, A Foley. Curran replaced by K Martin (57min). Hickey replaced by M Moran (65). J Hayes temporary replacement for O'Shea (65-66).

TERENURE COLLEGE: C Clarke, G Dempsey, M Smyth, C O'Connell, D Coleman, S Cullen, N Hogan, D McVard, C Egan, P Bruce, J Kelly, G James, M Quinn, B Kavanagh, M Egan. Cullen replaced by J Muldowney (47). M Egan replaced by D Murphy (75). Referee: D Hagar (Rother)

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[illegible][illegible]

to P. Bergeron (Ger) 6-2, 7-5. H. Di Giorgio (Rom) bit G. Grottochale (Arg) 2-6, 6-3, 7-6; A. Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bit N. Kijmsta (Jap) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. S. Testud (Fr) bit P. Schmyder (Swit) 6-4, 6-4; A. Frazier (US) bit B. Rittner (Ger) 6-4, 6-3; A. Huber (Ger) bit L. McInnes (US) 6-3, 6-3; A. Fuszur (Fr) bit D. van Roost (Bel) 6-4, 7-6; N. Tausz (Fr) bit L. Neland (It) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; K. Studenikova (Slovakia) bit T. Tanesungpan (Thai) 6-0, 6-2; B. Schett (Austria) bit M. L. Serra (Sol) 6-3, 6-3; A. Carlsson (Swe) bit M. Tu (US) 7-5, 6-1, 6-1; D. Enopert (US) bit G. Ag Sides (Fr) 6-4, 6-2; W. Williams (US) bit J. Capristi (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-2.

**CREY**

Northeast division						
* Buffalo	38	23	11	216	182	87
Pittsburgh	36	31	7	251	242	75
Montreal	24	33	14	221	232	66
Hartford	27	36	10	195	225	64
Ottawa	24	33	15	200	212	63
Boston	24	40	9	211	263	57
Western Conference						
Central division						
	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
* Dallas	43	23	6	224	173	92

Winnipeg	34	22	15	266	183
Edmonton	34	22	15	266	183
St. Louis	31	32	9	213	219
Chicago	28	32	12	184	168
Toronto	25	41	6	210	255

Pacific cities only

† Colorado	45	18	9	248	176
† Vancouver	33	32	7	224	99
† Anaheim	30	31	11	212	207
† Los Angeles	31	34	1	212	74
† Vancouver	30	31	4	224	207
† Seattle	28	32	9	184	168
† Los Angeles	26	38	9	192	240
† San Jose	24	41	7	182	238

† denotes qualified for playoffs  
† denotes division winners

Zaman (London, Newham) 48kg; R  
Robson (Parsippany, Calhoun) at C. Harvey  
(St John Fisher, RC) 45kg; M. Conway  
at Eastbourne Comprehensive, Darington  
by May (St Bonaventures, Newham) 42kg;  
D Cook (Robert Black) at D O'Grady  
(Weston Brook)

**FOOTBALL**

**ENGLISH GOODYEAR UNDER-16 TRO-**  
PHY: Seaside (Newall Green) 0 City Sch,  
Shelfield 0 (aet)

**RUGBY**

**UNDER-16 INTERNATIONAL MATCH:**  
England 20 France 10 (at Twickenham)  
Daily Mail Under-16 Cup: Final: RGS High  
Wycombe 29 Wheatth 15 (at Twickenham)  
Daily Mail Under-16 Cup: Final: Colston's  
23 Arkham GS 12 (at Twickenham)

[illegible]

	3	2	1	0	60	71	1	11	
CT	3	2	0	0	139	127	1	11	
Great State	4	1	1	1	112	89	1	11	
Tanqueville	4	1	1	1	2	93	14	2	8
Wilmington	4	1	1	1	2	93	14	3	7
ESW	3	1	0	0	10	78	7	1	5
Kentucky	3	1	0	0	2	78	77	1	5
LA	4	0	0	0	4	62	104	1	1

BRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool at Dyon  
1 Time 44

## World Cup sevens

(in Hong Kong)

POOL MATCHES: Pool A: Fiji 66 Namibia  
Waterloo 40 Tonga 38  
Pool B: Ireland 7 South Africa 25  
Pool C: Western Samoa 4 Morocco 0  
Pool D: Argentina 12 Western Samoa 8  
Pool E: Romania 0 United States 12 Romania 17:  
United States 40 United States 7 Pool F: New  
Zealand 31 Tonga 35 Japan 26

**CANADA:** 7; Cook Islands 5; England 1; France 1; Germany 1; Iceland 1; Ireland 1; Italy 1; Japan 1; Poland 1; Portugal 1; Romania 1; Scotland 1; Spain 1; Sweden 1; Switzerland 1; Taiwan 1; United States 1; Zimbabwe 12; Poland 1; K. Australia 26; Portugal 7; Scotland 1; Portugal 7; Portugal 7; Ireland 31; Scotland 19.

**SEMI-ISH CUP:** Quarter-finals: Fiji 56, Ireland 48, Scotland 48, Wales 48; Semi-finals: Ireland 54, Scotland 54; Final: Ireland 54, Scotland 51.

**AFRICA:** (for runners-up in pool stages) 1980: South Africa 19; France 14; Scotland 4; Romania 19; Semi-finals: South Africa 19, France 14; Final: South Africa 19, South Africa 21.

**ASIA:** (for runners-up in pool stages) 1980: Australia 38, England 38, Scotland 38, Ireland 38, Romania 38, Tonga 38, Argentina 38, Japan 38, South Korea 38, China 38, Hong Kong 38, Cook Islands 10, Philippines 10, Thailand 10, Hong Kong 10.

**OCEANIA:** (for third-place teams in pools) 1980: Australia 38, Ireland 38, Portugal 38, Romania 38, Samoa 38, United States 24, Canada 24, New Zealand 24, Japan 24, Morocco 19, Semi-finals: Australia 38, Japan 24, United States 24, Morocco 40, Final: Japan 24, United States 24.



Australian Capital  
Treas: Feruktau

Hardy cons: Knox 5, Persn: Knox 2  
Drooping cons: Knox 5, Canterbury Crusade-  
dendron 1; Ties: Mulford, Balle, Robertson, Balle,  
Corns: Macdonald 2  
(at Canberra)

Free State 45 Natal 40

Free State Cheetham: Ties: Costaze, Ets,  
Substitutions: De Beer 2, Smith: Persn:  
Knox 1, Ties: Mulford 1, Corns: Robertson,  
Tieckmann, Pyrie, Allan, Le: Ties: Tieckmann,  
Corns: Lawless 3; Persn: Lawless 3  
(at Bloemfontein)

Basting 98 NSW 27

Basting Lions: Ties: Wessie, Johnson,  
Johnson, Johnson, Johnson, Johnson, Johnson,  
New South Wales Waratahs: Ties: Murdoch,  
Paula, Pinkerton; Corns: Baile 3  
Ties: Butler 1

(at Johannesburg)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	P
Basting	4	0	0	151	12	2	18	
Basting	3	4	0	135	14	4	12	3
Walloo	3	4	0	103	86	2	12	3
Woolfand	3	2	1	0	90	7	11	1
WCT	3	2	1	0	90	7	11	1
Free State	4	0	0	235	127	3	11	

[illegible]

**ZIMBABWE** 12 Pool 10 Korea 21; Spain 26  
**BURUNDI** 12 Pool 11 Australia 26  
**PORTUGAL** 7; Scotland 28; Portugal 7;  
**SCOTLAND** 31 Scotland 19.

**SEMI-FINALS CUP:** Quarter-finals: Fiji 56  
 England 5 Western Samoa 21;  
 2nd Semi-final: France 14, New Zealand 38  
 3rd Semi-final: South Africa 19, New Zealand 7  
 4th Semi-final: Fiji 24 South Africa 21.

**LATE FOR TURN-UPS** in pool stages as  
 players returned from the World Cup.  
 Wales 12 Tonga 26; Cook Islands 36,  
 Scotland 49 Romania 19; Hong Kong  
 10 Tonga 10; Tonga 49, Cook Islands 10  
 2nd Semi-final: Hong Kong 43, Cook Islands  
 43; Final: Hong Kong 19 Tonga 10.

**DWELL** (for third-place teams in pools):  
 Argentina 33, Ireland 33; Portugal 33,  
 Namibia 22; United States 24; Canada  
 22; Zimbabwe 22; Morocco 19, Semi-finals:  
 Ireland 22 Japan 19; United States 24  
 Morocco 0, Final: Japan 28 United States  
 40.

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# Sun shines down on bright lights of future

By MICHAEL AYLIW

SCHOOLDAYS are widely held to be the best days and, for those lucky enough to be involved, schools' day at Twickenham on Saturday would certainly qualify as one of the better ones.

With relatively little happening elsewhere, schoolboy rugby was last week granted a small window in the season through which to shine. The Rosslyn Park sevens was as big and successful as ever, and on Saturday Twickenham hosted three of the main schoolboy fixtures of the season: the Daily Mail under-15 and under-18 schools cup finals, and the international between the England schools 18 Group and their counterparts from France.

Twickenham was abuzz. The cumulative noise was a couple of semi-tones higher than usual, but the enthusiasm was unbridled. Brilliant pockets of uniformed colour decorated the crowd of 20,000.

Sedburgh, which has produced players at every representative level of England rugby this season, has attracted some of Great Britain's best schools to its ten-a-side tournament today and tomorrow. Durham, the beaten finalists in the Rosslyn Park sevens last week, join the likes of Llandovery and Edinburgh Academy for the competition, in the which the most successful team from each of the four pools goes forward to a separate competition.

As separate enclaves vied with each other during the two cup finals, before coming together for the international. "The girls in blue think the Kirkham XV are worth a try," read one banner. The rugby thrilled. The sun shone. Schooldays sat fondly in the memory.

Yet, amid all the heady excitement, the benevolent gaze of those older and wiser issued forth from brows beginning to crease with concern. The game is now professional and that is already beginning to filter through to schools level. Scholarships are being set up and boys are being targeted. Michael Pearey, formerly president of the Rugby Football Union, now in charge of schools, is aware of the vital role that his department now plays.

"A lot of these boys understandably have stars in their eyes and hope that they will make hundreds of thousands of pounds in top-class rugby,"

## SPORT IN SCHOOLS

he said. "We have got to make them realise that only a tiny minority will ever manage that and so a full and rounded education remains a priority for all of them."

Geoff Wappett, delighted after the England team that he coaches became the first this season to beat their French equivalents, 20-10, sounded similarly cautious notes. "It's very flattering for the boys, and their parents, too, when big clubs show interest, but I would like to see a code of practice established that would create order between clubs and the boys they are interested in," he said.

Wappett is concerned at the lack of a solid bridge between schools rugby and club rugby, and would like to see an intermediate league created involving the top schools and club teams from the leading clubs. Pearey, meanwhile, sees a national "super league" for the top schools as inevitable.

The march of progress, then, is taking schools rugby with it. In my schooldays, not so long ago, there were no Gatorade bottles and shimmering shellsuits with school insignia emblazoned across them; not to mention the possibility of appearing at Twickenham in the final of a national competition.

This year the Gatorade-swilling finalists were RGS High Wycombe and Whitgift, in the juniors, and Colston's Collegiate and Kirkham Grammar School in the seniors. High Wycombe, for whom Nick Duncombe, the captain and scrum half, caught the eye, became the first school to retain the junior title, while Colston's became the first school to win the senior event three times in a row.

The rugby in both finals was exhilarating but contained a healthy number of mistakes and imperfections. The unfettered exuberance of those playing and those watching provided a spectacle high in flair and adventure, adding weight to the view that schooldays are indeed the best days.



Lee Pointing, right, of Bootle High School, takes the contest to Louis Cadman, the King Harold School boxer

## Refusing to throw in the towel in pursuit of former glory

In 50 years of the schools' national boxing championships, not one fatality or serious injury has occurred. This, though, is the sport that has been expunged from the gymnasium through a concerted effort by headmasters, the British Medical Association, teacher training colleges and even physical education experts. It is, they say, too dangerous to have anything to do with the national curriculum.

Until now, perhaps. Who said this in support of bringing boxing back into the schools? "A number of chief constables hold the view that, if boys spent their evenings letting off steam in the gym, they would not be hitting old ladies over the head," Henry Cooper? A backbench Tory MP? No, the likely incoming Labour Minister for Sport, Tom Pendry.

How politics has changed. It was certain Labour ministers and councillors who, in the 1960s, accelerated the decline of boxing in schools. A decade earlier, 53,000 boys between the ages of 12 and 18 attended the national championships finals one year at Wembley, at Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham, where on Saturday the fiftieth anniversary tournament was held, this figure had plummeted to 624.

The age-group had been narrowed to 12-16 and the standard was mixed, but the enthusiasm... "The point is that the disciplines of boxing you learn at school — a training routine, stamina, courage — can be transferred into later life," Dudley Savill, the general secretary of the Schools Amateur Boxing Association (SABA), said.

"The British Medical Association has put forward propaganda successfully, but has not come up with any evidence which sticks on the amateur side of the sport. I want to get a dialogue going. In a climate in which there is a great deal of bullying, boxing should be given an opportunity again. Had it been more generally available, it could have had an effect on reducing crime figures."

The majority of the boys who reached the finals on Saturday were from working-class backgrounds. "There has been no attempt to maintain boxing in independent schools," Simon Kemp, of Amateur Boxing News, said. "That has affected the opportunities of talented boxers from poor backgrounds and brought the sport to universities, medical schools and the top independent boarding schools should be targeted to resume boxing."

Such a task is the responsibility of the Schools Commission, a newly formed sub-committee of the SABA. Its chairman is Jim Smart, who, as headmaster of Churchmead, a comprehensive in Datchet, introduced boxing four years ago. "Only one or two schools in the whole country box now, but, if

Ivo Tennant on the fight by boxing to halt a drastic decline at schools level

we told children they would be doing so, they would run home to pick up as much gear as they could find," he said. Twenty of Smart's 555 pupils box and five of them are (non-contact) girls. His aim is for 30 schools to take up the sport this year. "We have to start with non-contact boxing for 11-year-olds upwards," he said. "All the boys wear up-to-date headguards and we are looking at using heavier gloves. I am only prepared to have boxing at a school which has a properly qualified person in charge."

As for the boys, the pontification of politicians and the anxieties of their teachers merely washes over them. Alexander Gibbins, 13, who attends a comprehensive in Bognor Regis, concurred with his father, a former Amateur Boxing Association divisional champion, that boxing makes for a less violent society. On Saturday he became the junior "A" champion. "Headguards?" he said. "I know they are supposed to protect you, but they narrow the target area. I don't think we should have them."

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### SPEEDWAY

## Wigg leads Knights to Star Cup success

By TONY HOARE

IT WAS the result that nobody expected. A King's Lynn team, put together at the eleventh hour, travelled to Peterborough and pulled off an unexpected 49-41 victory in a Speedway Star Cup group match on Friday night.

Short of practice, because their stadium and track are not yet ready for action, King's Lynn thus became the first visiting team since 1994 to win at the Panthers' Alwalton track.

Peterborough finished second in the Premier League last season and expected to figure prominently in the Elite League championship race this year, led by Jason Crump, a British record signing from Poole for £35,000 last January. In contrast, King's Lynn have put together a side on a shoestring budget, with a mixture of loan riders and foreign assets recalled after the club's year out of action in 1996.

Top scorer for the Knights at the fast and narrow Peterborough circuit was Simon Wigg, a former world championship runner-up, who joined King's Lynn two weeks ago on loan from Bradford.

Wigg, 36, scored 13 points, despite racing with a broken rib suffered in practice at Oxford last Monday. "To go to Peterborough and win is brilliant, everyone is shocked about it," Wigg said.

"I'm very pleasantly surprised. Everybody was jumping up and down about how well Peterborough were doing and we've been there and beaten them. I don't think any of the supporters could believe it because they had gone to Peterborough with no expectations. We were a very happy bunch."

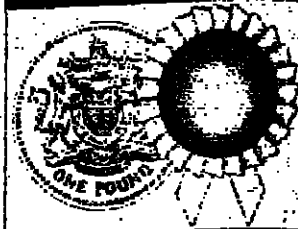
Meanwhile, Coventry's impressive start to the Speedway Star Cup stuttered over the weekend when they lost away to Belle Vue on Friday night and were held to a draw at home to Wolverhampton the next evening. Low scoring from Shane Bowes and Simon Cross, the second strings, left the Bees struggling against a consistent Wolverhampton team, but Greg Hancock, Coventry's top rider, continued his electric start to the season.

Hancock, the world No. 3, has been beaten by an opponent just once in 20 races this season — and that was when he suffered a carburettor trouble against Swindon while leading the heat.

Bradford confirmed their credentials as potential Elite League pacesetters with a comfortable 56-34 home victory over Swindon on Saturday. David Walsh, signed last week to fill the reserve slot left after Todd Wiltshire was refused a work permit, topped the scorecard on his debut.

## A manifesto designed to bring a smile to the face of sport

### THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Sport has always played a leading role in election campaigns, with politicians keen to claim some of the credit for the country's sporting prowess. This campaign has kicked off in familiar fashion with the main party leaders desperate to grab photo-opportunities with leading figures in sport.

The chances of any of the parties including some serious proposals to help develop the nation's sports, however, look minimal. Yet sport is more than a niche activity in the country. The Sports Council estimates that there are around 28 million regular participants in sports, supporting an industry that employs 450,000 people and raises several billion pounds in taxes. Add to that the millions who enjoy sport from the comfort of their armchairs and you have an instant that constituency politicians should find hard to resist.

The Times has got together with Richard Baldwin, a tax partner at Deloitte and Touche accountants, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation to produce its own manifesto for sport. The measures are reasonably simple and can all be achieved at no great cost; the tax measures are costed at little more than £100 million. Not only would they raise the country's sporting reputation, but also, with more leading events and participants at all levels, they could end up actually increasing the money that the Government receives from sport-related activities.

□ Tax: A few simple tax changes would make a real difference to the country's ability to bid for top sporting events. Euro 96 was a genuinely successful tournament, raising more than £60 million for the Government, but other countries offer a more favourable VAT rate that may tempt future tournaments elsewhere. Reducing VAT on admissions would have saved the £-Euro 96 organisers around £5 million.

International sporting bodies and international events are also subject to corporation tax. Creating a more tax-friendly environment, by making corporation tax payments more coherent or even abolishing tax for sporting organisations, as in Australia, would make the United Kingdom more competitive.

□ Charity: Local sports clubs are mostly run by volunteers on a non-profit basis. Yet, unlike the neighbouring amateur dramatics clubs, local sports clubs are not regarded as charities. Granting the clubs charitable status would enable them to become exempt from corporation tax on fund-raising and sponsorship income. The clubs would also be eligible for relief from business rates.

□ Lottery: The lottery levy could be reduced from 12 per cent and some of the money channelled to assist youth sport, while unclaimed prize-money could also be given to charity rather than returned to the prize pool. Sporting organisations have greatly benefited from lottery grants but there are a few changes to the procedure which would improve the system, including a simplified application procedure for small grants.

□ Europe: Sport has always been vital to Europe with clubs competing across the Continent long before the establishment of the EU, but there is no reference to sport in the Maastricht Treaty. Adding sport to the treaty would not only recognise its importance to the EU nations but also would allow leading sporting bodies to advise Europe on the consequences of new legislation for sport.

□ Playing fields: There has been some recent action to try to stem the sell-off of playing fields, but the greatest help would be the repeal of regulations that encourage local authorities to dispose of their sites. Once recreation facilities are lost, they cannot be replaced, so obliging local authorities to research strategies for the future of playing fields should also help to ensure that sufficient playing fields exist for the next generation.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

### BASKETBALL

## Home-bred Sharks lack aggression

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE sight of four full England internationals representing one Budweiser League club is an unusual one in this post-Bosman era.

Between them, Roger Huggins, Michael Payne, Ian McKenney and Jason Swaine have contributed much to keep Sheffield Sharks in contention for the title, but Jim Brandon, their American coach, would love it if they showed a touch more aggression.

"Some of the England guys get a bit tentative," he said after the Sharks had defeated Worthing Bears 94-77. "Sometimes they have the habit of looking like choirboys. They are the types you would want to marry your daughter or your sister. I would prefer them to go into games with the attitude of 'I'll kick you in the teeth and I will buy you a drink afterwards'."

No kicks in the teeth were needed on Saturday, however, when the Sharks recovered from early arrears of 13-4 to stay among the leaders.

Voisie Winters led Sheffield with 33 points and Todd Cauthorn finished with 20. James Hamilton top-scored with 31 for the Bears, who were handicapped by the rare failure of Cleave Lewis, their player/coach, to score.

Newcastle Eagles virtually secured a place in the play-offs with their 86-76 win away to Crystal Palace, while, at Derby, where a play-off spot was at stake, the Storm gained a 98-95 success over Leicester Riders.

## Young golfers prepare for Tour de Force

By MEL WEBB

THE deadline has passed, and the line-ups for the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT), being run in association with *The Times*, have been settled. There were more than 1,000 applications to join the tour and the huge entry has been distilled down to the best 216 players to compete on the three tours that will comprise the tournament.

It has not been easy for Colin Springate, the tournament director, to send a rejection slip to the hundreds of unlucky ones, but he can gain one consolation — the fact that he has had to disappoint so many players is an indicator of the popularity of the competition.

The Daihatsu tour has been created to give added impetus to the pioneering work put in over the past three years by Springate, an unassuming and enthusiastic chartered surveyor from Kent.

The tour is the progeny of a tournament inaugurated in 1994 in response to the difficulty being experienced by his son, Daniel, in getting enough competitive golf.

Daniel, then an eight-handicapper, found that as a member of a club with no organised junior section, he was getting little chance to compete against other players of a similar standard.

Springate Jr was between the devil and the deep blue sea — either getting beaten by contemporaries, who, for a variety of reasons, had unrealistically high handicaps, or finding himself just short of the standard required for selection for county teams and some of the stronger competitions. For Daniel and his

peers, good and improving players that they were, the competitive outlook was not a rosy one.

Springate looked into his son's complaints and, having found them justified, responded by launching a tour for the best juniors in Kent. It was such a success that it expanded in 1995 and grew further in 1996. Now, with the involvement of Daihatsu, it is to take its biggest step forward yet. Springate was a part-time tournament director in the first three years, but has now been able to take on the job full-time.

There will be three tours — national, southern and northern, each of which will be contested by 72 players. The national circuit will comprise the best of the 1,000-plus entries, while the regional tours are designed to become feeders for the elite national competition. Even before the first ball is struck, the competition is set for expansion —



next year Midland and Scottish tours will be added to the programme. Patron of the organisation is David Leadbetter, who has become probably the best-known golf coach in the world since he rebuilt Nick Faldo's swing in the mid-Eighties. Leadbetter is characteristically playing a low-profile role in the tours, but his support has been of key importance to the success of Springate's branchchild.



Ben Willman drives off at Camberley Heath watched by Grant, his twin brother

He became interested in Springate's scheme in the early days, when a Kent tour event went to Chart Hills, the European headquarters of Leadbetter's global teaching academies. He and Springate chatted and, before long, Leadbetter had become actively involved in the scheme.

"His support has been vital," Springate said. "He rings me regularly and we talk things over. He could not have given us more encouragement than he has. He is totally committed to the competition, and we think we're very lucky to have him with us."

There will be eight tournaments in both the northern and southern sections with players having to play in a minimum of six events, and ten in the national competition with a minimum commitment of seven appearances to produce end-of-season orders of merit. Dates have been chosen to avoid the leading

amateur competitions and tournaments will be held during school holidays, bank holidays and weekends.

"We felt it was important to provide a cushion to allow players to miss the odd event if they have to and still have a chance to qualify," Springate said.

He will also be staging two invitational competitions for girls with an upper handicap limit of 18, and it is hoped that a tour will be launched for them next year.


The climax of the season will be the tournament of champions, in which the winners of all 26 events on the three tours will meet over 36 holes at Chart Hills on November 8 and 9. The winner there, plus the winner of the national tour, will receive coaching at Leadbetter's world headquarters at Lake Nona, Florida, and also have the opportunity to play some competitive golf in the United States.

The winner of that season-ending tournament will finish 1997 having trodden the fairways of some of the finest golf courses in the United Kingdom — Open Championship venues such as Turnberry, Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham and St Annes are on the national tour rota.

The winners of the 1996 tours — Karl Johnson, Martin Lewis and Robert Oldaker — have entered again, and Johnson will be the first JGT champion to defend his title. Several clubs have multiple entries, and Camberley Heath, which has five, includes the 17-year-old twins, Ben and Grant Willman. The brothers are into filial togetherness right down to their handicaps — they both play off five.



# Fast bowlers maintain South Africa's control



THE DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORT



James Henderson previews one of the greatest international canoe races: 125 miles from Devizes to London

# All the way on paddle power

As you watch the agonised and exhausted faces in the Boat Race crews this coming Saturday, at the end of their four miles from Putney to Mortlake, spare a thought for the crews of canoeists who will be arriving in London from the other direction. They have come all the way from Devizes, Wiltshire, 125 miles away, on one of the world's longest and most arduous canoeing races.

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, takes place each Easter weekend and 1997 is its Golden Jubilee. Up to 400 boats, from as far away as Denmark, Malta, the United States and Pakistan, will be taking part.

The event starts before dawn on Good Friday at the wharf in Devizes. Competitors paddle the length of the Kennet & Avon Canal to Reading, where they will join the Thames and paddle down to London, finishing at Westminster Bridge.

"There's nothing quite like the DW," Steve Harris, who partners Ivan Lawler as the reigning world doubles marathon canoe champion, and who has competed in the event in the past, says. Their longest race on the international circuit is 26 miles long. The DW is five times that.

"It's so long and arduous, Harris says, "that it scares off a lot of the elite paddlers because it could put them out for the rest of the season."

Instead, the DW is mainly an amateur challenge, but there is no shortage of people prepared to drive themselves to the point of physical collapse in their efforts to complete it. And as if the canoeing is not enough, there are locks to contend with: 77 of them. Paddlers have to "portage" around them; they get out, pick up their canoe, and walk, or run, around the lock, put the boat back in and cast off as quickly as they can.

It sounds difficult, but one competitor admitted: "Actually, portages are not that bad. They get the circulation in the legs going again."

The race, which has taken on a style of true derring-do and adventure, was conceived in a pub as a bet in the 1930s, when a group of friends wagered that they could take a skiff from Pewsey in Wiltshire to Muddiford near Christchurch, Dorset, in less than three days, which they did. The challenge was resurrected over the current route in the

## SPORT FOR ALL



late 1940s and canoeists joined them in 1948. The race has been staged annually ever since.

There are four classes within the DW and up to 60 trophies in all: for different categories and styles of canoe. Three classes — the junior doubles, senior singles and the veteran/junior combination — are run in daily "stages" over the Easter weekend. Paddlers race about 35 miles on each of the first three days. Then, on Easter Monday at 8.30am there will be a mass start at Ham, and 120 boats will ride the last 17 miles of the course downstream, reaching Westminster Bridge by about ten o'clock.

The fourth class is the senior doubles, an innocent-sounding name for what turns out to be an unearthly, gruelling slog lasting between 16 and 24 hours without a break. This

**"The bones ache, the brain plays tricks. Only strength of personality will get you through it"**

event is paddled "straight through": no time is allotted for rest or food. About half of the total entrants will be in this class and quite a few of those will not make it.

It is a truly tough event. Apart from the sheer length, which makes it so exhausting, there is the unpredictable weather (particularly this year because Easter is so early). Competitors can find themselves paddling in a T-shirt during the day if it is sunny and then a few hours later it can be freezing. The worst moment

seems to come about an hour before dawn, when it is coldest and teams have been paddling through the night in the dark.

Tamstin Phipps, who has paddled the race eight times in the past ten years and has won the women's event once and the mixed event another year, says: "That's when the bones are aching and the brain starts playing tricks. It is only strength of personality that gets you through."

It's true. It takes a certain mind-set to keep going and going, thoughts fixed on the next portage, without letting the cold, hunger and discomfort turn to doubt. There is a saying that competitors take their brain out in Devizes and get it back at Westminster.

Finally, the race throws in one more challenge. It is vital to catch the outgoing tide in the final stretch from Teddington Lock because it is impossible to paddle against the flow. Competitors choose their own start times in order to arrive there at high tide. Just imagine the disappointment of having to wait for six hours on the riverbank.

As well as entries from clubs, there is a long Services tradition in the DW. The Royal Engineers and Marines always enter and often so do the Police and RAF. There have been some well-known competitors in past years — among them Robin Knox-Johnston and Chay Blyth — but the best-known alumnus of the race is Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, who competed in the 1965 race while he was in the Marines, winning his class for the year. He is reputed to have said that he knows of only one person in history who had a more miserable Easter. It is a long haul to Westminster, however you look at it.

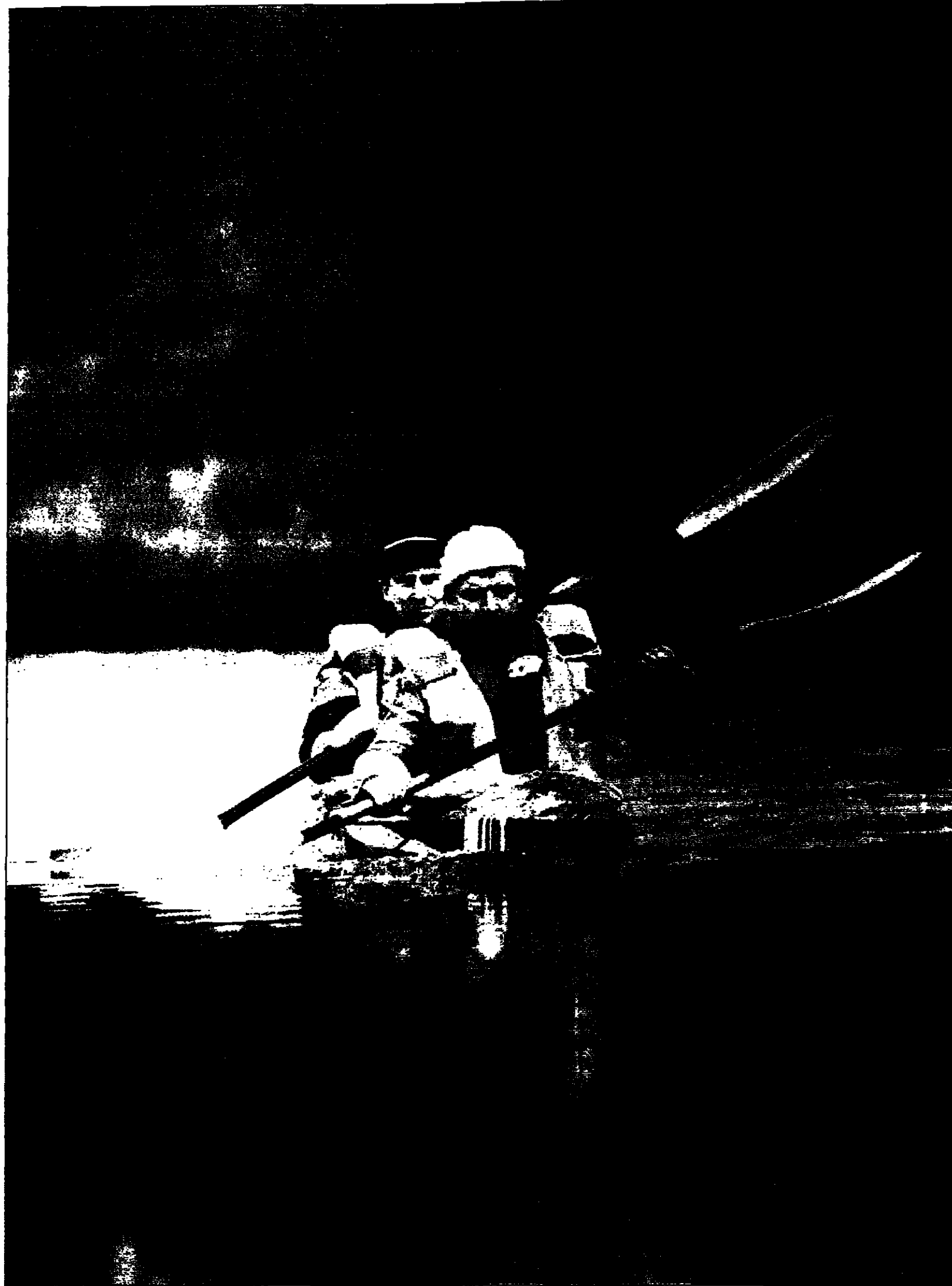
So why do these people do it? Why do they put themselves through such cold, wet misery, and for so long, for no obvious material gain?

For men like Harris and Lawler, there is the potential prestige of breaking the record, but for most people the answer lies in the challenge, and there are as many answers as there are people.

Some want to beat their time from last year, others want to beat their father's time from 20 years before. Others are raising money for charity. Many competitors simply want to finish — in itself a huge accomplishment.

For all the agony and exhaustion, the feelings of pain

fade fairly quickly after you have finished and you're warm and dry. The memories remain, though, and they give that irreplaceable and immense feeling that every long-distance sports person knows. The feeling of a challenge taken on and won.



Near Pewsey, Wiltshire, in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race, a competition that started as a pub bet in the 1930s and is now an international event



Passing a lock: like the repetitious paddling, hard work, but great for restoring the circulation in the legs

THE easiest and safest introduction to canoeing is through a club or a training centre. There are thousands of these around the country.

For general advice and a list of clubs affiliated to British Canoe Union, contact the BCU in Nottingham (tel: 0115-982 1100).

Annual BCU membership costs £16.50 for adults and £10 for under-18s. The BCU can provide leaflets with the dates and prices of introductory courses. Basic weekend introductory courses start at about £60. Club membership varies, but can cost around £45 for a club that has canoes available (buying is expensive). Some clubs also hold open

days and introductory evenings free or at minimal charge.

Such events will introduce you to the sport and enable you to choose a discipline, which in addition to the sprints and marathons on flat water, are as varied as slalom, wildwater (like downhill), sea kayaking, rodeo (trick canoeing) and even canoe-surfing and canoe-sailing.

If you continue with the sport, you will want to buy your own clothes and equipment, such as windproof jacket and buoyancy aid.

If you want to enter the Devizes to Westminster race, it would be a good idea to start training soon for next Easter. At least make sure to get on the water during the summer

because capsizing in August is much less uncomfortable than in December.

You should certainly attend some of the Waterside and Thameside series, each between 15 and 35 miles long, which are staged fortnightly on Sundays in the run-up to the main event. They are held on different stretches of the course so that paddlers can get an idea of the marathon in advance.

Details and application forms for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race can be obtained from the committee at Boscombe Forge, Church Road, Boscombe, Surrey KT23 3JG, or phone 071-801 8266. Entry fees are between £60 and £70 for a double boat and £35 for a single.



## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is an amusing incident (not so amusing for West) from the BBL Premier League match between Price and Ash.

Dealer West Game all IMPs

♠ 7 5 4 3	♥ A 6 5	♦ J 5 3	♣ 8 3
♠ 2	♥ Q J	♦ K 10 7 4	♣ Q J 10 9 5 4
♠ 10 6	♥ K 10 9 7 2	♦ A Q 8 6	♣ K
♠ K Q J 9 8	♥ 8 4 3	♦ 2	♣ A 7 6 2

W	N	E	S
Ash	Townsend	Parrot	Mossop
3C (2)	4S	2H (1)	2S

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts

(1) Showing a weak hand with at least five-four in hearts and a minor. (2) To play in partner's minor.

David Mossop ducked the first heart, won the second and drew two rounds of trumps. West discarding the queen of clubs. Nothing wrong with that — signalling with the top of a sequence when you can afford it is one of the best ways of briefing partner about the hand. Had East held A 7 6 2 in clubs, he would have been grateful to learn that he should rise with the ace when declarer played a club from dummy.

Things went wrong for West when Mossop got off lead with

a diamond. The defence should have arranged for East to win this trick of course, but somehow West took it. West continued with the jack of clubs, disastrously crashing partner's king. Mossop won, played a second club to West's nine, ruffed the diamond return, and ran the six of clubs, taking a ruffing finesse against the ten.

After this misadventure, West's defensive signals will probably be much less generous (and less clear) for quite some time.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**CUDDY**  
a. A lord's entertainment  
b. An officer's cabin  
c. A stupid Scot

**CULCH**  
a. Oyster spawn  
b. A pine cone  
c. A fused wire

**CULLIS**  
a. A small postern  
b. A strong broth  
c. A roof gutter  
**CULVERTAGE**  
a. Primitive drainage  
b. A dressage manoeuvre  
c. Downgrading

Answers on page 45



## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Youngest grandmaster**

In the wake of Gawain Jones, 9, defeating the international master Malcolm Pein, Etienne Bacrot, from France, has scored 6½ points out of nine games in the category ten tournament at Enghien-les-Bains, near Paris, to become the world's youngest-ever grandmaster. Bacrot is 14.

**World championship**

It has been announced that the controversial 1997 world championship between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, which bypasses both of their official organisations, the PCA and Fide, will be held near Paris starting in October. The match will have a prize fund of \$3 million, be played over 18 games and will start on October 21. The venue will be the Palace of Napoleon at Compiègne, 50 kilometres north of Paris.

**Brilliant win**

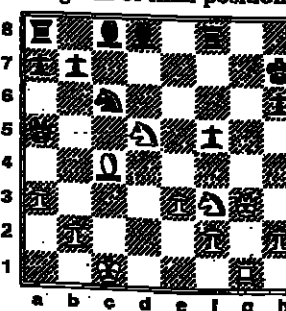
The following brilliant win was scored by the British international master, Aaron Summerscale, in the tournament at Cannes. There is a superb variation on move 17 if Black accepts the rook sacrifice.

White: Aaron Summerscale  
Black: Edmar Mednis  
Cannes, March 1997

**Queen's Gambit Declined**

1 c4	Nf6
2 Nc3	e6
3 Nf3	d5
4 d4	Be7
5 Bf4	O-O
6 e3	c5
7 dxc5	Bxc5
8 Qc2	Nc6
9 a3	Be7
10 B-D0	Qa5
11 g4	dxc4
12 Bxc4	e5
13 g5	exd4
14 g6	Bd6
15 Nd5	Bd8
16 Rhg1	h6
17 Bg7	Kf8
18 Qd4	Kf7
19 Qg1+	Kf7
20 Qg3	Black resigns

**Diagram of final position**



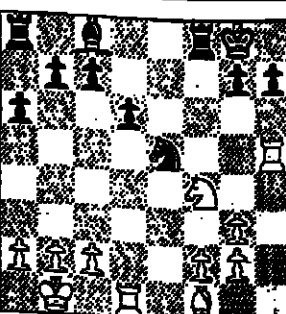
If 18... Kxg7 19 Rg1+ Bg5 20 Nxg5 hxg5 21 Rxe5+ Kh6 22 Rh5+ Kh5 23 Qh7+ Kg4 24 Be2+ f3 25 Nf6+ Kg5 26 Ne4+ Kg4 27 h3 checkmate.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Savernjev Paromov, USSR 1963. Although queens have been exchanged, White's lead in development still allows him to bring off a winning combination. Can you see it?



Solution on page 45



## Validity issue not raised before ombudsman

**Hamar and Another v Pensions Ombudsman and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett  
[Judgment March 18]

Where the validity of an application to transfer his accrued rights from one pension scheme to another was not raised by the trustees of the scheme at the hearing of a complaint before the Pensions Ombudsman, the trustees were precluded from raising the matter on an appeal to the High Court under section 15(14) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the complainant, John Michael French, from the decision of Mr Justice Collins made on October 20, 1995 whereby he allowed the appeal of the trustees, Christopher James Hamar and Lockville Trustees Ltd, from the decision of the Pensions Ombudsman.

In June 1992 the complainant complained to the ombudsman that he had suffered injustice because of maladministration by the trustees who had failed to pay the transfer value of his accrued pension rights under a small self-administered occupational pension scheme established by Zengrange Ltd for the benefit of its employees to another scheme, Greffille Ltd Executive Pension Scheme. The ombudsman upheld his complaint.

The complainant was the managing director of Zengrange Ltd and, as such, an employed member of the scheme until his dismissal on May 20, 1989. He was also a trustee until his removal from the trusteeship on September 13, 1989.

On learning that he had been removed as a trustee, he wrote a letter dated October 15, 1990 to the trustees formally requiring them

to transfer his entitlement to "another scheme, details of which shall be advised in due course".

He received no reply and wrote again on August 24, 1991 repeating his requirement and identifying the other scheme as "the Greffille Ltd Executive Pension Fund". The letter indicated that the scheme was then still in the course of preparation, but it was established a week or two later. Inland Revenue approval was obtained on April 10, 1992.

Mr Mark Herbert, QC, who did not appear below, for the complainant; Mr Christopher Nugee for the trustees.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the judge set aside the order of the ombudsman on the ground that the complainant had never made a valid application for the payment of his transfer value. The point was taken by the trustees for the first time in their appeal.

Counsel who then appeared for the complainant did not argue that the point was not open to the trustees, either because they were estopped from taking it or otherwise, nor did he attempt to support either of the letters dated October 15, 1990 or August 24, 1991 as a valid exercise of his statutory rights.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that the complainant never made a valid application. The next issue was whether the trustees were estopped or otherwise excluded from challenging the validity of the application.

In his Lordship's judgment, it raised two distinct questions: First, whether it was open to the trustees to waive the strict requirements of section 95 of the 1993 Act and treat an application which did not comply with them as if it did.

Second, if it was open to them to waive the statutory requirements, whether they did so, either by choosing not to rely on the non-compliance or by so conducting

themselves that it would be inequitable for them to rely on it.

Similar questions were considered by the House of Lords in *Kammins Ballrooms Co Ltd v Zenith Investments (Torquay) Ltd* ([1971] AC 850) and by the Court of Appeal in *Daglan Properties Ltd v Mahoney* ([1995] 2 EGLR 75).

In both cases the statutory language was mandatory and explicitly yet the parties were held to be able to waive compliance with the express requirements of the statute because they were imposed for their protection.

By comparison with the statutory provisions under consideration in those cases, section 95 of the 1993 Act was a hybrid. Some of its provisions clearly could not be waived.

Those which restricted the use to which the transfer value could be applied, for example, were imposed as a matter of policy. They were not imposed for the benefit of the parties, and certainly not for the benefit of the trustees. They could not be waived.

Other requirements of section 95, however, were purely formal. The requirement that the application be made in writing, for example, was clearly imposed for the benefit of the trustees; it might be waived by them to waive the requirement, but it would be absurd to hold that they could not do so if they chose.

In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees were entitled to treat the letter of August 24, 1991 as a valid application even if it was premature. The same would be true of the letter of October 15, 1990 even if it did not exercise the option conferred by section 95 with sufficient particularity and did not tell the trustees what they were to do.

The matter could be tested by considering the various functions which the application under section 95 served. In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees could prop-

erly waive the want of particularity in the letter of October 15 and treat it as a lawful exercise of the option conferred by the section.

Equally, they could properly accept the letter as fixing the date by reference to which the value of the transfer payment was to be ascertained. No question of public policy would be involved. And if, as his Lordship would hold, the trustees might waive formal defects in the application such as want of particularity, then they might accept a defective application as valid to fix the date for ascertaining the value of the transfer payment.

His Lordship was of the opinion that the trustees did implicitly accept the letter of October 15 as a valid application with which they were bound to comply, while at the same time maintaining their right to defer actual payment until the property (the main asset of the scheme) could be sold. They never resiled from that position. Had they done so at any time before the ombudsman made his final determination, he would have had to decide whether they should be allowed to do so.

In his Lordship's view, the ombudsman could not have been criticised if he had refused to allow the trustees to challenge the validity of the application in the course of their reply to his provisional determination.

But it did not matter whether they could have been precluded from disputing the validity of the application before the ombudsman, for they never did. It was plainly too late for them to do so for the first time in their appeal from the final determination of the ombudsman.

The objection to raising the matter for the first time on appeal had, in his Lordship's opinion, nothing to do with estoppel, waiver or election.

It arose from the nature of legal

proceedings and the appellate process. In ordinary litigation the issues were defined by the pleadings. They could not be amended after trial to raise new issues not opened on the pleadings below.

The general principle was that the mere failure to raise a defence did not amount to a representation that it would not be raised at the proper time; but if it was not raised when the time came to raise it, it was treated as waived: see *Grain v Inglethorpe* ([1848] 1 Exch 651, 657).

Investigations by the Pensions Ombudsman were informal. There were no pleadings. The issues were defined by the complaint and the response to it. The jurisdiction of the ombudsman was limited to the investigation of the complaint actually made to him.

At the end of his investigation, his duty was to determine the matters then actually in dispute between the parties. If he correctly applied the law correctly to the facts found or not in dispute, he made no error of law.

Neither the validity of the letter of October 15, 1990 nor the trustees' obligation to comply with it when they could do so without detriment to the members of the scheme was ever in dispute.

Appeal from the determination of the Pensions Ombudsman lay to the High Court but on a question of law only. His Lordship was at a loss to know what error of law was made by the ombudsman.

In his Lordship's view the ombudsman was entitled to treat the letter of October 15, 1990 as valid as the parties had themselves treated it. Mr Herbert had submitted that the principle in play was that of estoppel by convention.

His Lordship was close to regard it but the analogy was not so clear. The judge was wrong to find that the ombudsman made an error in law in treating the letter as valid

when its validity was not disputed before him.

The last question was whether the complainant could be allowed to challenge the judge's decision when he did not raise the matter below. If the trustees should not have been allowed to dispute the validity of the letter of October 15, 1990 before the judge because they had not done so before the ombudsman, surely the complainant should not be allowed to challenge their right to do so before their Lordships when he did not do so before the judge.

But in his Lordship's judgment the two situations were different. The Pensions Ombudsman was the sole tribunal of fact. His function was to reach a conclusion on the facts found or disputed.

The appeal to the judge lay on a question of law only. The judge had no jurisdiction to disturb the determination of the ombudsman if it was reached by a correct application of the law to the facts found by him or not in dispute before him.

The appeal to the Court of Appeal was by way of rehearing. If the judge found an error of law where there was none, then the court was bound to correct him.

The failure of an appellant to take a point below was material, but it ought not to deter their Lordships where it had not resulted in uncompensable prejudice to the other party.

Subject to the variations (i) that the transfer value should be ascertained at October 15, 1990 and (ii) that it should be paid with interest from October 5, 1994, the date of his final determination, out of the assets subject to the trusts of the scheme, his Lordship would restore the decision of the ombudsman.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Ford & Warren, Leeds; Landau & Scanlan.

## Currency losses not allowable

**Taylor Clark International Ltd v Lewis (Inspector of Taxes)**  
Before Mr Justice Robert Walker  
[Judgment March 7]

Losses caused by fluctuating currency rates from the repayment of a secured, interest-bearing, loan made to an overseas company by its United Kingdom parent company to finance a property development project did not give rise to a loss for capital gains tax purposes.

The lender's right to repayment of the loan was not a "debt on a security" within the meaning of section 134 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 so that the losses were not allowable in computing liability in respect of chargeable gains.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in a reserved judgment in an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer company, Taylor Clark International Ltd, from a determination of special commissioners (Mr T. H. K. Everett, Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr M. Cornwell-Kelly) that losses sustained during the accounting periods to March 1992 were not in respect of a debt on a security and were therefore not allowable losses.

Section 29 of the 1979 Act provides: "(2) ... all the provisions of this Act which distinguish gains which are chargeable gains from those which are not ... shall also apply to distinguishing losses which are allowable losses from those which are not ..."

Section 134 provides: "(1) Where a person incurs a debt to another ... no chargeable gain shall accrue ... on a disposal of the debt except in the case of the debt on a security (as defined in section 82 above)."

Section 82(3)(b) defines security as including "any loan stock or similar security ... of any company, and whether secured or unsecured."

The provisions are now contained in the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Anthony de Garr Robinson for the taxpayer company; Mr Laurence Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the general policy underlying section 134(1) was described by Lord Justice Templeman in *Ramsay* (No. 7) Ltd v IRC ([1997] 1 WLR 974, 982-3) as constituting a coherent system of capital gains taxation by excluding "dispositions of debts by owners where the dispositions cannot give rise to gains but to include dispositions of debts in the form of investments which may result in gains or losses in the same way as dispositions of other investments".

The appeal was concerned with a loan in US dollars by the taxpayer company to its wholly owned Californian subsidiary for the purchase of three properties in Santa Clara. The documentary

evidence included promissory notes encumbering the properties and statements that the loan was to be interest bearing and repayable on demand.

The loan was repaid by 1992. Whether the exchange losses on the taxpayer company converting repaid dollars into sterling during its 1992 accounting period was an allowable loss was the essential issue.

It was common ground that that depended on whether or not the taxpayer company's right to repayment of the dollar loan was a "debt on a security" within section 134(1). There was no suggestion of tax avoidance by the taxpayer company: had it foreseen the exchange loss it could without artificiality have structured the loan in such a way as to make it reasonably clear that it did create a debt on a security.

Mr Aaronson, relying on the speech of Lord Russell in *Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd v IRC* ([1978] AC 885, 903), submitted that the primary meaning of "security" was, as exemplified by Lord Justice Templeman in the *Ramsay* case (at p883) as being "a fixed or floating charge", any proprietary security and that that was conclusive of the appeal.

Mr Henderson submitted that if Parliament had intended every debt backed by some proprietary security to fall within section 134(1) it would not have done so by borrowing the definition of "security" from section 82(3)(b). The definition was, he said, limited to loan stock or something like loan stock.

Mr Aaronson's submissions had to be rejected. The decisions of the House of Lords in *Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd* and *Ramsay* did not establish that a "debt on a security" included a debt that was supported by some proprietary security but which did not resemble a marketable investment.

Here the debt evidenced by the promissory note was stated to be assignable and had documentary title but its terms were such that it was unlikely, although not totally impossible, to be of interest to an outside investor.

But the special commissioners took the view that the loan lacked "a structure of permanence" because it had no fixed term and repayment could have been demanded by the creditor or debtor at any time.

That was an important point, even if not absolutely decisive. The case was one of a secure, interest-bearing intra-group loan to finance a particular project.

The terms and context of the loan were such that it was unlikely that the benefit of the loan would be dealt in or marketed. The commissioners were right to attach importance to the impermanence of the loan and right in their main conclusion.

Solicitors: William Sturges & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

## Pleading libel out of time in contract case

**Lloyds Bank plc v Rogers and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse  
[Judgment December 20]

In an unusual case where a claimant could not sue without first determining what the state of his account would have been had the bank not levied allegedly excessive charges, the court would allow him under section 35 of the Limitation Act 1980 to amend his pleadings in a breach of contract action so as to plead libel even though more than three years had passed, since the cause of action arose.

The policy of section 35 of the 1980 Act was that, if factual issues were in any event going to be litigated between the parties, the parties should be able to rely upon any cause of action which substantially arose from those facts.

Any relevant prejudice to the party opposing the amendment could be taken into account in the exercise of the court's discretion whether to allow the amendment. There were no grounds in the instant case on which the court could interfere with the judge's exercise of his discretion.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Lloyds Bank plc against Judge Overend, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court at Plymouth (The Times April 11, 1996) gave leave to the first defendant, Nicholas Rogers, to further amend his defence and counterclaim in an action brought against him and

the second defendant, Linda Jane Rogers, in which the bank originally claimed £78,646.53 plus interest.

Mr David Eady, QC and Mr Thomas Keith for the bank; Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Miles Croft for Mr Rogers.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said the first defendant was a commercial photographer who had taken out a secured overdraft with the bank at what he thought was 4 per cent above the bank's base rate. Debit balances had built up and the bank on a number of occasions had dishonoured his cheques and refused direct debit instructions, seriously affecting his business and his ordinary life.

The defendant had taken up with the bank the size of the interest and bank charges on his overdraft. The bank blamed the computer and gave him a £6,343.37 credit. At the same time the bank demanded immediate payment of £78,646.53, threatening otherwise to tell credit agencies he was a defaulting customer. Nine days later, the bank had issued a writ for the full sum plus interest.

The bank's further and better particulars in the action revealed it had been charging the defendant interest at 37.67 per cent. It sought summary judgment for that sum.

The defendant took expert advice and showed an arguable case that the charges were unjustified. The bank in response amended the endorsement to its writ by abandoning the claim to interest, reducing the claim by £35,706.13 to £42,940.40 but still failed to get

summary judgment.

The implication of the abandonment of the interest claim was that it no longer followed there were necessarily insufficient funds to meet the accounts when the cheques and debits were dishonoured.

On that basis, in spring 1993 the defendant had served an amended defence and counterclaim, asserting that the bank had wrongfully dishonoured his cheques and wrongfully made statements that his accounts contained insufficient funds, amounting to breach of contract and libel. Leave to amend was required and application was made in August 1994.

By that time, more than three years had passed, exceeding the three-year limitation period in a claim for libel, although not for contract actions. The defendant therefore relied on section 35 and Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The bank argued that there was no jurisdiction to add a cause of action in defamation when the facts relied on had first been pleaded in the action after the expiry of the three-year period, and that only the original pleading served in 1991 could be looked at for the purpose. The judge had rejected the bank's arguments on jurisdiction and exercised his discretion in favour of the defendant, crediting in favour of the defendant, crediting in favour of the defendant, crediting in favour of the defendant.

The bank argued that the policy of the Act required the facts should have been pleaded before the expiry of the relevant limitation period, so that a later pleading of the facts could not be used to support an out of time amendment even though the facts had been pleaded in relation to a cause of action which at that time was not time-barred.

The judge had correctly rejected that argument. Section 35 contemplated that the introduced cause of action would be time-barred. The policy of the section was that, if factual issues were in any event going to be litigated between the parties, the parties should be able to rely upon any cause of action which substantially arose from those facts.

The bank had argued that discretion should be exercised in its favour because there was a strong policy that any defamatory action should be started promptly after the defamatory statement came to the notice of the prospective claimant.

The instant case was unusual. When the defamatory statements were made the bank was asserting that the state of the accounts was

such as to justify fully what it had done. Until the defendant was in a position to ascertain the facts and disprove them he was not entitled to believe that he had been wrongly defamed.

Now that the whole question of the bank's dishonouring of the cheques and debit instructions and the justification for it and the damage to Mr Rogers before the court, there was no adequate reason why if part of what he was entitled to claim of amounted to the tort of libel he should not be allowed to include claims under that head as well.

The bank had not been prejudiced by the lapse of time. No sufficient ground had been shown for interfering with the judge's exercise of his discretion. In his Lordship's judgment the judge's conclusion was appropriate on the somewhat unusual facts.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that in 99.9 per cent of libel cases the approach advocated by Mr Eady, relying on dicta in *Grove v Sutherland* (unreported, October 25, 1993) and *Qureshi v Baker* ([1996] 1 WLR 1326), was correct. Those who alleged they had been defamed should seek the vindication of their reputation as speedily as possible, and the relative speed or delay of their proceedings was a touchstone by which the genuineness of their complaint might be judged.

However, this was plainly the thousandth case. Here the libel claim mirrored the existing contract claim so that there would in any event be litigated the all important factual issue, the state of the defendant's account. Here too, for that very reason, there was no overall delay in the commencement of proceedings, nor any overall lengthening of their course by the amendment.

The defendant had hardly been tardy in seeking the vindication of his reputation. He did not know realistically whether or not he had been libelled until he knew the true state of his account. Although technically he knew he has been libelled as soon as his cheques were returned, any successful claim had to include the assertion that the cheques should have been met because there were funds or agreed facilities available. In reality, the claim and the defence were one.

Solicitors: Foot & Bowden, Plymouth; Alison Trent & Co.

## Choice to be made without advice

**Director of Public Prosecutions v Ward**

A driver with a right to replace a breath specimen with a specimen of blood or urine was not entitled to have legal advice before deciding whether to exercise that right.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Blofield) so held on March 18 when allowing an appeal by the prosecution by case stated against the acquittal by Brighton Justices on May 23, 1996 of Jack Ward of driving after having consumed alcohol in excess of the limit.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the defendant, having provided a breath specimen which contained less than 50 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, had declined to exercise his right under section 8(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to replace the

specimen with one of blood or urine.

The justices had found that the police should have waited until the defendant had spoken to a solicitor before asking him whether he wished to replace the specimen, and they excluded the evidence of the breath specimen under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

It was clear from *DPP v Billington* ([1988] RTR 231) that the right to consult a solicitor, under section 58 of the 1984 Act, did not apply when a motorist was required to provide a specimen under section 7 of the 1988 Act.

Since there was no logical distinction between the procedures of section 7 and section 8, a suspect had no right to legal advice when making a decision under section 8(2).

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that in 99.9 per cent of libel cases the approach advocated by Mr Eady, relying on dicta in *Grove v Sutherland* (unreported, October 25, 1993) and *Qureshi v Baker* ([1996] 1 WLR 1326), was correct. Those who alleged they had been defamed should seek the vindication of their reputation as speedily as possible, and the relative speed or delay of their proceedings was a touchstone by which the genuineness of their complaint might be judged.

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Solicitors: Foot & Bowden, Plymouth; Alison Trent & Co.

## Non-party sought to set order aside

**In re Sybil Margaret Pope (a Bankrupt)**

Before Miss Hazel Williamson, QC  
[Judgment March 7]

Where a person who was affected by an order made in the course of litigation to which he was not a party and of which he had no notice wished to apply to have that order set aside, he was entitled to do so under Order 37, rule 2 of the County Court Rules 1981 if he first successfully applied to become a party to those proceedings under Order 15, rule 1. He was not limited to invoking Order 37, rule 1.

Miss Hazel Williamson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held dismissing the appeal of the trustee in bankruptcy to Sybil Pope against a ruling by Deputy Judge Fawcett on January 6, 1997 in Brighton County Court that, inter alia, Birmingham Midshires Building Society, which had not been a party to the bankruptcy proceedings, had been entitled to apply under Order 37, rule 2 to have an order made in those proceedings set aside.

Mr James King-Smith for the

trustee; Mr Simon Clegg for the building society.

HER LADYSHIP said that although she had initially been attracted by the reference to the clear definition of "party" in Order 37, rule 2 and felt that supported the trustee's argument that that could only mean a person on the record, or falling within the definition of "party" in section 147 of the County Courts Act 1984, on a proper analysis of the general structure of the County Court Rules in relation to setting aside judgment, she was satisfied that it was in fact correct to apply to become a party under Order 15, rule 1, and then to apply to set aside under Order 37, rule 2.

She agreed with counsel for the society that Order 37 expressly contemplated applications to be made by strangers to litigation and who therefore might not have knowledge that an order had been made, and it would be strange if the 14-day time limit imposed by rule 1.

Solicitors: Woolley Bevis & Diplock; Brighton: Res-Page, Wolverhampton.

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department. All flights offered will be on a confirmed basis. Telephone numbers and office hours will be supplied. 10 Ten working days booking notice will be required. 11 All runners-up will be responsible for their own requirements, passport and insurance. 12 Once a booking has been confirmed no changes are permitted, if a booking is cancelled no alternative tickets will be issued. 13 Prize winners will be responsible for their own visa requirements, passport and insurance. 14 Once tickets have been issued Virgin Atlantic shall not be liable for any failure to comply with its obligations caused by weather conditions, fire, flood, strike, terrorism, industrial disputes, war, hostilities, political unrest, riots, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, acts of God or any other circumstance amounting to Force Majeure. 15 Only original tokens and entry forms permitted. Photocopies are not acceptable. 16 The judges' decision is final. Receipts of entries will not be acknowledged. 17 No Virgin Freeway miles will be awarded for travel under this promotion. 18 The prize tickets may not be used in conjunction with any other promotions or promotional fare mounted by Virgin Atlantic or any other third party. 19 Employees of News International Newspapers Ltd, Virgin Atlantic, their agents or any company associated with the competition are not eligible to enter the competition. 20 No purchase necessary. Airport tax, air passenger duty and security charges are not included in the prize and are payable by each passenger.

CHANGING TIMES









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# Next to publish catalogue of healthy figures

**NEXT:** The success story from Britain's premier high street fashion retailer is set to continue with full-year figures on Wednesday. Judging by the Christmas trading statement, these figures should be fairly impressive, with pre-tax profits expected to grow almost 30 per cent from £125 million to £159 million. Earnings growth should be even stronger, with a 31 per cent increase pencilled in from 23.1p to 30.3p.

Sales of the group's retailing arm grew 24 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 1, bolstered by a 5 per cent increase in selling space. But as David Jones, chief executive, is only too happy to point out, the real boost to sales came from Next Directory, which was up 26 per cent. The overall increase in group sales was 16 per cent. According to NatWest Securities, costs have risen about 13 per cent, although gross margins will have grown 0.5 per cent. Shareholders are expected to be rewarded with a near-30 per cent rise in the payout from 11.5p to 15p net.

**P&O:** Full-year figures tomorrow are likely to bear the scars of a £50 million, to £60 million hit relating to its cross-Channel ferry operations. However, these write-offs are likely to be countered, to an

extent, by an improved contribution from its cruise and property development arms.

Overall, pre-tax profits are expected to be down about £30 million at £290 million with earnings per share showing an 11 per cent decline at 33.9p. Brokers say the decline in profitability should prove short-lived as the benefits of restructuring filter through this year. These will include improved efficiency in both the container and, subject to regulatory approval, the ferry operations. In the current year the group also expects to complete the merger with Stena, the demerger of Bovis Homes, the withdrawal from bulk shipping and the proposed disposal of £500 million worth of property.

The payout is likely to be held at 30.5p.

**BLUE CIRCLE:** A stronger second-half performance is envisaged at home after the 21 per cent profit shortfall at Blue Circle Industries in the first six months.

The group's involvement in the three strongest cement markets in the world will bolster the overall profit, to be

unveiled today, by 11 per cent, from £273 million to £303 million, with earnings per share up from 21.4p to 23.5p. The dividend is expected to grow from 12.5p to 13.2p.

**INCHCAPE:** The measures taken by the new management and stronger performance from its core operations should mean that improved full-year figures are unveiled today.

Pre-tax profits are likely to be up 13 per cent at £166 million, while earnings will have grown 22 per cent to 17.1p. The payout is likely to be 5 per cent higher at 10.5p.

A recovery is expected in the vehicle import and distribution operation where a combination of new models, the return to profitability of the European arm and the weaker Japanese yen will have proved beneficial. The only drag will come from weaker car sales in Hong Kong and Singapore.

An improvement is also expected in the marketing division after rationalisation, while further investment in its Coca-Cola bottling plants in Russia will have held back profits.

**CARADON:** The benefits of recent rationalisation will be a key feature when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday, with pre-tax profits expected to be 17 per cent ahead at £176.7 million compared with £151.6 million last time. Earnings will also have grown 16 per cent to 15.9p, but the payout is likely to show only a small increase to 9.7p compared with 9.5p last time.

Cost savings of £30 million were achieved in the first half with that figure growing to £54 million for the year, while US windows and doors will return to the black.

**REDLAND:** A disappointing performance across Europe will result in a downturn in pre-tax profits of almost a third to £252 million when the group reports on Thursday. Earnings per share are expected to drop from 30.6p to 21.3p, while it is hoped that the dividend will be pegged at 16.7p.

**TAYLOR WOODROW:** The gradual recovery in the housing market should provide the biggest thrust to the group's performance. Pre-tax profits tomorrow will be about £66.5

million compared with £53 million last time, while earnings per share are likely to be up from 8.9p to 11.3p. The contracting arm will have made efforts to break even after recent losses. The dividend should grow from 3p to 3.5p.

**BOOKER:** A sharp drop in profits is on the cards when the food distribution group reports full-year results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to slump from £90.2 million to £27 million, after restructuring charges of £77 million. Earnings will slump from 26p to a loss of 5p in the wake of last year's rights issue and the increased number of new shares in issue. Brokers are hoping for a 3 per cent rise in the payout to 23.8p.

**MORGAN CRUCIBLE:** The expected downturn in growth during the second half failed to materialise and profits in the second six months are now expected to match those of the first. As a result, overall profits at the pre-tax level are expected to come out today at £98.5 compared with £85.1 million last time. Earnings should be up from 25.1p to 28.3p while the payout is likely to be lifted from 13.8p to 14.5p.

MICHAEL CLARK



David Jones has seen the success of Next Directory give a boost to Next's sales

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Increase is forecast for US rates

THE key event for financial markets this week is the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting tomorrow amid widespread expectation that US interest rates will be raised. After last week's testimony to Congress by Alan Greenspan, Fed Chairman, in which he spoke of the strength of the economy and the importance of pre-emptive action against inflation, the markets believe that the Fed Funds rate will be raised by 0.25 per cent.

Britain's economic agenda is fairly light. Interest rates will be centre stage on Wednesday when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hold their monthly discussion of monetary policy. The general expectation is that the Bank will again seek a quarter-point on base rates and that Mr Clarke will continue to say "no" right up until the election.

Today sees publication of final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product, expected to leave quarterly growth unchanged at 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth unchanged at 2.7 per cent.

January figures for global visible trade are expected to show a deficit of £710 million on Wednesday, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, against December's £845 million shortfall. February non-European Union trade is predicted to show a deficit of £565 million, against January's £398 million shortfall.

In Europe, the most important figures will be Germany's March cost of living data, expected to show a modest drop in the annual inflation rate after an upward blip earlier this year. In January, the rate jumped to 1.8 per cent, from 1.4 per cent in December, before easing to 1.7 per cent in February. In France, figures on Friday are expected to show unemployment stuck at 12.7 per cent in February.

JANET BUSH

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### TODAY

Interim: GR Holdings, Northern Leisure, Profit Income, SCI Entertainment, Finska, Arco, Blue Circle Industries, Brammer, Capital & Regional Properties, Dainton Group, EBC Group, Fined Earth, Forti Parts, Global Group, How Group, Indochina, Kingspan Group, Morgan Crucible, Nestor-BNA, Newport Holdings, Nottingham Group, Omnicare, Padang Seapang Ridge, PPL Therapeutics, Scrutons, Seaford Resources, Seft, Severfield-Reeve, Sharpe & Fisher, Trestle, Tropic Perkins, T&S Stores, Uster TV, VCI, Waterford Wedgwood, Economic statistics: UK final GDP (Q4), UK balance of payments (Q4), Insee report on French economy.

### TOMORROW

Interim: Allied London Properties, Burn Stewart Distilleries, F&O Holdings, Kier Group, Scottish Metropolitan, Finska, Arcoelectric, William Baird, Booker, Bostrom, Castles, Fleming Macdonald, Hemley, Hodge Heed-Bins, Holders Technology, Hunting, Kingsbury Group, London & Manchester, London Securities, Mestemans Group, Allied Macdonald, Meristem, New Island Ridge, P&O, Quality Software Products, Roedel, Schell, SIG, Singer & Friedlander, Sun Life & Provincial, Taylor Woodrow, Tudor, Vero Group, Whitman, Economic statistics: API weekly oil supply statistics.

### WEDNESDAY

Interim: Berrill Developments, City Technology, McGeehan, M.J. Gleason Group, Provand Group, FW Thorpe, Finska, Arcoelectric, Ben Bailey Construction, Biocompatible International, A&C Black, Snake Brothers, Bridon, British Fittings Group, Caradon, Croda, International, Clifton, Caron, Dewcongroup, Ford, Fulmar, Garton Engineering, Healthcare, Maiden Group, Next, Nichols (Minto), Oulche Group, Ruberoid, Swan Hill Group, T.S. UK Safety, Unichem, Unicorn International, Wolstenholme Rink, Economic statistics: UK global trade in goods (January), non-EU trade in goods (February).

### THURSDAY

Interim: Bellis Gifford Japan, DCS Group, L. Gardner Group, Trafford Park Estate, Finska, Broadbank Group, Foreign & Colonial, US Smaller, Hepworth, Melick, MTL Instruments Group, Norco Hedges, Redland, Rushmore Wynne Group, Slough Estate, Economic statistics: US weekly jobless claims report.

### FRIDAY

Bank holiday

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Rascal Electronics, ED&F Man; Sell Newcastle United. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Pearson, Frost Group, Upton & Southern. The Observer: Buy Next, SEC Group, Stadium. Independent on Sunday: Buy Capital and Regional Properties, BTR, Tomkins. Sunday Business: Buy Iceland, Heywood Williams, Eurocamp.



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## Gokal trial jury to reconvene

**A SHOT** in the battle for household electricity consumers will be fired today when General Accident Direct, the insurance company, joins Hydro-Electric in an alliance that could lead to a national energy marketing vehicle.

The two Perth-based companies are linking — more than a year before the opening of the domestic market to competition — in an affinity trial to see whether customers of each company respond well to cross-marketing. If the trials of 40,000 homes nationwide prove successful, the two could strike an alliance that would be one of the first national marketing drives in energy.

Two groups of 20,000 homes will be sent a mailshot by Hydro-Electric and GA Direct. Hydro-Electric's letter will go to a cross-section of its customers in the north of Scotland promoting GA Direct and offering discounts on insurance. Interested customers would then have to approach GA Direct, rather than the electricity company. GA Direct's letter will target 20,000 of its customers in England and Wales giving information



about Hydro-Electric as an energy supplier. The insurance company will enclose an energy survey and the offer of entry into a prize draw for those houses that send in their survey.

Dennis Barnes, Hydro-Electric's channels development manager, said: "This is an important first step for Hydro-Electric in advance of competition in the British electricity market. The choice of GA Direct as an affinity partner offers a mutually ben-

Jurors in the Old Bailey trial of Abbas Gokal, former head of the Gulf Group, are to resume deliberations today. The jury retired on Friday after a summing-up by Mr Justice Buxton. The jurors were later sent home for the weekend.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. He is alleged to have conspired with officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify documents with a view to enabling BCCI secretly to fund the Gulf Group.

He is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, although not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The court has heard that the Gulf was indebted to BCCI by \$1.2 billion. The jury was told that Mr Gokal fled to Pakistan in 1992, shortly before Swiss police raided his Geneva office. He was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when his US-bound flight put down to refuel.

The first in a series of hearings to address alleged fraud in Lloyd's of London is to resume in the High Court today. A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the Lloyd's reconstruction plan, alleging that they were fraudulently induced to begin underwriting. Lloyd's says that they entered third-party agreements and are obliged to pay, whatever the outcome of future legal action.

## Sensor's £1m

The gift market is understandably focused on the general election, but it may be more appropriate for it to consider the election of 2002. Why? First, because that result seems more uncertain.

Even allowing for a big forecasting error, the opinion polls indicate a clean sweep for Labour this time. Some will say the polls suggested a similar result in 1992 and were wrong. However, in spite of the Tories' eventual lead of more than 7.5 per cent in the popular vote in 1992, equal to about 2.5

million votes, they came within a whisker of losing their overall majority; a total of fewer than 2,500 votes spread in the 11 closest contests would have done the trick for Labour. Furthermore, Labour's lead in the opinion polls is now far greater than in 1992.

It would therefore seem appropriate for the gilt market to discount the consequences of Labour winning. What is less likely is that they will be able to plan for two terms. Much of the first term will be spent establishing their credibility (given memories of policy mistakes in the 1970s). It will not be until the second term that the full impact of any major reforms will be felt.

trate on the first election of next century is that, by then, a clearer picture of European Monetary Union should be available. The market's working assumption is that the UK will not be a full member of it until then. Hence the large yield premium on gilts over European bonds. However, if policy in the coming economic cycle delivers structural budget deficits and inflation that appear favourable by comparison with our European neighbours, any future entry by Britain will be from a position

of strength. This contrasts with the present position, in which we are deemed to trail Europe on these criteria.

Although much progress has been made in reducing budget deficits and inflation, there is still much to do. UK inflation is still at an underlying trend rate higher than our European neighbours. According to estimates by BZW, the UK should have a 3 per cent trend rate by the end of this year. This compares with estimates of 1.7 per cent for Germany and 1.9 per cent for France. Only Italy, with 3.8 per cent, would exceed the UK.

looks better, although largely for cyclical, rather than structural, reasons. Securing a structural budget deficit that is low by UK standards and by those expected to prevail in Europe would also strengthen our position. How can this nirvana be achieved? Essentially by prolonging the economic growth cycle while containing inflation.

Inflation could be contained by decoupling the domestic cycle from the export cycle. In the past, the UK economy has overheated when export de-

mand accelerated and this coincided with a strong domestic economy. Given that we are a very open economy, the impact of export expansion is proportionately large. Attempts are already being made to stimulate economic growth in Europe, our closest trading area, and although these may have limited success in 1997, there is more likelihood that 1998 will see growth accelerate. Hence it becomes more important to ensure that the domestic economy is not roaring ahead there. The solution is to put the brakes on the domestic economy.

and tighter fiscal policy can do this. The bias should be towards the latter, to avoid unnecessary risks with export competitiveness. Too high a rise in interest rates could send sterling soaring, denting the export cycle just when domestic demand is being slowed down. Tighter fiscal policy may prove a more effective way of reducing domestic demand and may be speedier, cutting the budget deficit quite early in the new fiscal year.

Successful pulling of the domestic and export cycles ought to cut medium-term inflation pressure, but could dent corporate earnings. So, this strategy is likely to have a more favourable response from the gilt market than the equity market. However, applying the brakes early in the new electoral cycle should help to narrow the spread of UK gilt yields over German bonds; we would not be surprised to see it down to 100bp this year. It would also help to ensure that the next economic recovery can be tackled with the next election. Labour strategists savouring a big majority could be forgiven for fine-tuning their medium-term plans.

**MICHAEL HUGHES**  
BZW

**BY JON ASHWORTH**

**FOURTEEN** hundred German investors caught up in an alleged "advanced fee" fraud have launched an action in the High Court in London to try to recover more than \$14 million.

Gerhard Martens, a German national on remand in Exeter Prison, is named in the action, which relates to Operation Labis, an investigation by

the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Devon and Cornwall Police. Herr Martens, based in Torquay since the mid-Eighties, was arrested in September 1995 and charged with conspiracy to defraud.

West Country fraud squad officers carried out raids in connection with an alleged international "advanced fee" fraud ring, in which investors

are believed to have lost £100 million. The practice involves investors paying a large upfront fee for a line of credit that is never forthcoming.

The action, brought by three German investment clubs, is directed at Allgemeine Handels und Effecten Bank, a Delaware-registered company that was controlled by Herr Martens.

**Sensor Highway**, an oil services company, is raising £1 million from 3i, the venture capital group, to fund new product development. The company was set up in 1995 to produce optical fibre sensors and optical processing systems to monitor conditions in oil and gas wells.

**MEDUSA PETROLEUM**, a new oil and gas company, is to join the Alternative Investment Market next month at an expected value of £13 million (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which owns

what were formerly the two Czech subsidiaries of Tullow Oil, is raising £8 million through a placing of 11.5 million shares at 50p. Medusa, which also has exploration interests in Ireland and

Italy, is coming to the market as it returns deepening losses of £67,000 (£4,000 loss) for the year to June 30, on sales down to £33,000, from £41,000. It says that this is because of lower consultancy

The fall in the main market dragged the FT-SE AIM index down by 18.4 points last week, to close at 1,109.10.

1996/97							1996/97							1996/97							1996/97						
High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price pence	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price pence	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price pence	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E	High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price pence	Why +/-	Yld %	P/E
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422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
100	100	5.54	44	Adco Group	152	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
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422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
100	100	5.54	44	Adco Group	152	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
100	100	5.54	44	Adco Group	152	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
100	100	5.54	44	Adco Group	152	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
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1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
100	100	5.54	44	Adco Group	152	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	3	...
1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...
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1590	100%	21.50	1267	Adco Group	152	...	74	48	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...	74	...	...	48	...	74	...
422	107	66.90	120	Adco Group	312	...	132	67	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...	132	...	...	67	...	132	...

**Stay in style.  
And stay in budget.**



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE











# Having had the cake, I'd like to eat it again

All week, the plan had been the same. To start the review with *Hamish Macbeth*, one of my great favourites of the moment. But the plan will have to wait... for *Have Your Cake* and *East 11* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). It was quite, quite brilliant.

Whether Michael Jackson, the Controller of BBC1, was right to cram four hours of such high quality drama into only two weeks (almost matching the rate at which *ITV* is getting through its detectives) I do not know. But I do know that next weekend won't be the same without my double dose of Sinead Cusack.

I also know that any man thinking of living up spring with an extramarital fling will be having very serious second thoughts in the wake of Rob Heyland's beautifully crafted screenplay. If the right hook delivered on the stroke of midnight

on New Year's Eve, didn't persuade them, last night's *coup de grace*, hot coffee poured directly into the errant lap, will.

Small credit for the success of *Have Your Cake* must go to Paul Abbott, whose not altogether dissimilar serial, *Reckless*, recently reminded us what good television marital infidelity can produce. But however good *Reckless* was by the end, *Have Your Cake* started better and never looked back. Enormous credit for that must go to Paul Seed, the director, who secured terrific performances from every member of his cast and hit barely a duff note throughout.

Having eulogised quite so rapturously, however, it must be said, after Saturday's superlative episode, last night's conclusion did place something of a strain on its credibility as Heyland embarked energetically — and imaginatively — in pursuit of the moral message that his truncated title implied.

"Helping deliver your husband's mistress's baby?" observed Matt (James Bolam). "That'll be something to tell the grandchildren." Wife and mistress brought together by birthing ritual? I didn't buy it for a minute, but by then the whole thing had become so enjoyable that it didn't matter.

Sinead Cusack, as Charlotte, was outstanding throughout, but it has to be said it was a rare gem of a part, the wronged wife who, when confronted with her husband's infidelity, didn't fall apart but first got empowered and then — finally and fabulously — got even. But she couldn't have done it without wonderful help from Miles Anderson as the ghastrly Sam. Holly Aird as the far from *fatal* other woman, Bolam as her adviser-turned-administrator... indeed just about anybody who uttered a single word of Heyland's hard-

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

working dialogue. Next weekend will simply not be the same.

Of course, we'll still have *Hamish Macbeth* (BBC1) and perhaps by next weekend he'll be back in Lochdubh, rather than gallivanting around the Western Isles solving decades-old mysteries. Solving mysteries is not really what *Hamish Macbeth* is about. It was, however, last night, with Constable Macbeth (the excellent

Robert Carlyle) on holiday on the island of Laggan-Laggan and walking into a plot so complicated that I freely admit I'm not absolutely sure what happened in the end. I know these island communities are close-knit, but this one was positively crocheted.

Although the episode did have its lighter moments (staying in a household split by the Roman Catholic/Protestant divide, Macbeth prudently opted to be Jewish) and had Caroline Paterson escaping from Albert Square to play the pretty girl without whom no *Hamish Macbeth* is without, there was something strangely "not right" about it. It was like a story that Daniel Boyle, the writer, had been hanging on to for some time, only to be forced — for whatever reason — into pouring it into a *Hamish Macbeth* mould for which it was never intended, nor indeed, suited. Lovely performances from a cast that included

Alan MacNaughton, Tom Watson and Michael Byrne, but baffling nonetheless. As the old road sign almost says: Haste Ye Back, *Hamish*... to Lochdubh.

There was another curiosity on *ITV*, where DCI Barnaby, the latest addition to *ITV's* apparently endless portfolio of literary detectives, drove straight into Miss Marple land, the preposterously idyllic village of Badger's Drift, where — to nobody's great surprise — everybody had a secret and nothing was quite as it seemed. Unless, of course, you were up on the plot of *Tis Pity She's A Whore*, in which case you'd probably got Midsomer Murders cracked after 15 minutes.

The rest of us took a while longer. "Why do I get the feeling that everyone is lying to me?" asked Barnaby (John Nettles, who certainly had more fun playing Bergerac). "Because they always

do," said his wife, taking time off from Delia Smith recipes to remind him of the very foundation stone of detective fiction. Sunday nights — indeed most nights — on *ITV* would be awfully short if everybody told the truth.

Nettles did a good job of establishing Barnaby as a credible character, but was hindered by a storyline where murders are still solved by the knowledge that the Test match had been rained off on Wednesday (nobody mentioned the fact that Test matches are not played on Wednesdays) or that it was half-day closing in Cawston, and by two very theatrical performances from Elizabeth Spriggs and Richard Cant as the village's far from amateur blackmailers. As for Barnaby's inevitable sidekick, Sergeant Troy, he turned out to be a red herring, which in a story dependent on literary knowledge for its final twist... seemed like cheating.

## 6.00am Business Breakfast (9705)

6.00am BBC Breakfast News (92453)

9.00am The Weather (92453)

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## 6.00am Open University: From Child to

Pupil (7817434) 6.25 How We Study

Children (7735281) 6.50 An English

Accent (966298) 7.15

7.30 Secret Life of Toys

(3251892) 7.45 Wacky Races (1)

(5889786) 8.10 Blue Peter (1)

(5371366) 8.35 Bern (5557989) 9.00

Act-8 (1) (13873) 9.30 Sweet Valley

High (1) (5070144) 9.55 Cake Dots (1)

(7956237) 10.10 Playdays (9034182)

10.30 Babar (1) (19057)

11.00 Lassie: The Voyagers (1986) with Robert

Ray and MacDonald Carey. Lassie

braves a hurricane to give chase to her

master. Directed by Dick Moder and Jack

B. Hwey (43415)

12.30pm Working Lunch (50279) 1.00 Secret

Life of Toys (1) (5898095) 1.15 My

Village (8127288)

1.20 Lady in the Lake (1948, b/w) with Robert

Montgomery and Audrey Totter. A

missing man case full of intrigue and

deception for Philip Markow. Directed by

Robert Montgomery (3295628)

3.00 News, Regional News (1) and weather

(2454865) 3.05 The Natural World (1)

(4557908) 3.35 News (1) (6241960) 4.00

Today's Day (540) 4.30 Ready,

Steady, Cook (724) 5.00 Esther (1304)

5.30 Going, Going, Gone (795)

6.00 The Simpsons (882328)

6.25 Space Preempt (1) (785502)

7.10 Electric Circus features Wet Wet Wet

(837298)

7.30 The Sci Files Military and

economic systems could be

attacked by high-tech enemies via the

Internet (453)

8.00 Motor Month The first of a new series

includes footage of the Vauxhall Rally of

Wales (1) (5908)

8.30 Ray Mears's World of Survival: The

Midlands While in the Kalahari bush,

Mears learns how to avoid lions while

tracking antelopes and how to make a

poison arrow from fence wire (1) (5415)

9.00 News (1) and weather (9453)

9.30 Panorama: Abortion — Behind

Closed Doors Sarah Barclay examines

the abortion issue (1) (590273)

10.10 The Untouchables (1987) Kevin Costner

stars as Eliot Ness, the crusading federal

agent leading the battle against police

corruption and underworld crime in 1920s

Chicago. With Sean Connery, Robert De

Niro, and Andy Garcia. Directed by Brian

De Palma (811865) 10.30 The

State (762270) 10.40 A Parent's Guide

(320257) 10.55 Film: The Untouchables

(1860231) 12.50 Under the Influence

(3001380) 1.05 Film: Crossplot (24033)

2.40 News

12.05am Under the Influence Sophie Aldred

continues to examine the influence of

Christianity in Britain (7418835)

12.20 Crossplot (1989) with Roger Moore and

Matthew Hyer. A mid-mannered adver-

tising executive unwittingly gets caught

up in an espionage ring after being

handed an uncompleted crossword

puzzle by a dying man. Directed by Alvin

Raskoff (344546)

## 6.00am GMTV (628525)

9.25 Chain Letters (1) (4113502)

9.55 Regional News (1) (5912689)

10.00 The Time, the Place (1) (41231)

10.30 This Morning (4160958)

12.20pm Regional News (1) (7984786)

12.30 News (1) and weather (6224568)

12.55 High Road (1) (623980) 1.25 Home

and Away (1) (47134078) 1.50 Murder

She Wrote (1) (7608182) 2.40 Savanah

(1) (833960)

3.20 News (1) (8959255)

3.25 Regional News (1) (930796)

3.30 Tots TV (1) (7119845) 3.40 Rainbow Days

(3358618) 3.50 Goody (3518881) 4.05

Sooty's Amazing Adventures (2169618)

4.20 Snap (1) (1879960) 4.45 Art Attack

(1) (5824347)

5.10 Sorted Focusing on bullying (5062163)

5.40 News (1) and weather (828347)

6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (802182)

6.25 HTV Weather (158098)

6.30 HTV News (1) (845)

7.00 Wish You Were Here: Judith Chalmers

leaves down Route 66 in Arizona. Plus:

Marin Roberts embarks on a grand tour

of the Greek Islands and John Carter

finds out what makes holidaymakers

return to St Ives year after year (1) (4786)

7.30 Coronation Street Alan demonstrates

that his love for Fiona is as strong as ever

(1) (279)

8.00 World in Action An investigation into the

off-road rage caused by clamping (1)

(3434)

8.30 Kavanagh QC Kavanagh defends a

Bomb Ambassador's daughter accused of

murdering an Australian journalist (1)

(14076)

10.00 News (1) and weather (21892)

10.30 Regional News (1) (307989)

10.40 Joseph Emidy: The Lost Composer

Charting the life of the 19th-century

composer, featuring a performance by

jazz musician Andy Shepherd (1)

(481230)

11.40 Terrors of the Deep Exploring the real

and mythical predators of the oceans

and the sea's destructive power (608250)

12.35am Football Extra (1900354)

1.20 Mainly Men John Leslie returns with

a new series of the magazine for men with

women in mind (337895)

1.50 Planet Rock Profiles The former

Ultravox/Ironman Midge Ure (605545)

2.20 Club Nation (1) (4824187)

3.20 God's Gift (1) (2104309)

4.15 Sound Bites (19067458)

4.30 World in Action (1) (1) (94835)

5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (70767)

5.30 News (32274)





# PAYDAY 45

Roger Bootle on impact of a minimum wage

# BUSINESS

WAY AHEAD 46

UK must not turn  
says William  
Waldegrave

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

## Legal pressure may force BAT to bring demerger forward

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE growing legal pressure on American tobacco companies is expected to force BAT Industries, owner of Brown & Williamson and the Lucky Strike brand, to bring forward plans for a split between these and its financial services activities.

BAT, which has played down speculation of a demerger in the past, was coming under increasing

pressure from its shareholders even before last week's unexpected surrender by Liggett, maker of Chesterfields and one of the biggest US cigarette producers, to the anti-tobacco lobby groups.

Now investors are likely to seek a firm promise of a deadline for having off tobacco amid reports that BAT is attempting to create a fighting fund along with other US tobacco firms to oppose the escalating legal action. BAT itself is

believed to have decided internally that demerger could take place by the end of the year. Such a promise would mean a sharp rise for the share price, which ended last week at 494p after managing to shrug off the Liggett announcement.

Liggett unsettled the rest of the industry by admitting for the first time that cigarettes were addictive and offering to turn over a quarter of pre-tax profits for the next 25 years to a fund that will pay out to

smokers who contract an illness and sue. The industry has always denied any addictive qualities for tobacco and insisted the data in health studies linking smoking with disease are unproven.

BAT's tobacco operations, although profitable, have always acted as a drag on the share price because of the possible damage from future litigation, and demerger was being firmly considered as early as last summer.

However, Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, has insisted that this or any other deal under consideration would have to be seen to add clear shareholder value before it was considered.

Last summer BAT relaunched its financial services side, which takes in the insurance companies Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in the UK and Farmers in the US, as British American Financial Services. The company has been in talks over

possible co-operative ventures with a range of other businesses including Commercial Union, but the existence of the tobacco arm has put off potential joint venture partners.

Meanwhile, the drag on the share price has limited BAT's ability to make straight acquisitions in financial services through the issue of new equity. A demerger would allow that arm to go forward, while a deal with other

US tobacco groups to stand firm against litigation would mean future damages and strengthen the tobacco business once the had been cut free.

BAT is believed to be considering appointing financial advisers to the tobacco side as a precursor to a split. The group's current brokers are Cazenove and de Zoete & Bevan, owned by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, while its merchant bankers are Lazards and SBC Warburg.

## Prospects for jobs at highest in 7 years

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PROSPECTS for jobs will be at a seven-year high over the general election period, according to an employment survey from the Manpower employment agency today.

The survey, which comes after government figures last week that showed a further big drop in unemployment and continuing job growth, suggests that for the second quarter of this year job prospects remain good.

Of a sample of more than 2,000 employers, 26 per cent forecast an increase in job levels for the three months ending in June, while 12 per cent predict a fall — a net balance of 14 per cent.

The figure is the most optimistic second-quarter forecast produced by Manpower since the start of the decade. It marks an increase of five percentage points on the findings for the same period in 1996.

Regionally, the West Midlands is the most optimistic area, recording a rise of 19 percentage points over the same period last year. While job prospects in the South also look high, London is trailing the national job average, and East Anglia and the North West are the least optimistic areas about jobs in the country.

Ballot 97, page 6

## Thyssen and Krupp draw battle lines

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AN unprecedented £5 billion takeover battle in Germany is expected to turn hostile this week despite intense political pressure on the two companies to agree to a merger.

Thyssen, the steel producer, will today resume talks with Krupp, which made the hostile bid, but both companies continue to prepare for battle.

Helmut Werner, chief executive of Mercedes Benz, chaired secret talks at the weekend between Dieter Vogel, Thyssen's chief executive, and Gerhard Cromme, Krupp's chief executive. Herr Werner, the well-respected elder statesman of German industry, was called in because he is seen as the mediator most likely to bring about a merger.

But in the meantime, executives from both companies have sought the advice of American investment bankers who possess experience of takeover battles. Hostile takeovers are almost unheard of in Germany and German banks have no experience of them. Thyssen has hired Morgan Stanley while Krupp is being advised by Goldman Sachs.

Morgan Stanley is said to have devised a defensive strategy to prevent Krupp from purchasing Thyssen shares at a 25 per cent premium after the end of the talks. The

deadline for talks set by Krupp runs out on Thursday.

Thyssen is also believed to be considering the launch of its own hostile bid for Krupp, which is only half the size of Thyssen. In the past there had been fears that the federal cartel office would object to such a move.

Krupp suggested the framework for the talks last week after its bid was greeted with strong political hostility in Germany, where industrial disputes are expected to be settled through compromise. Politicians and unions accused the Krupp board of behaving like "Wild West cowboys".

But Krupp executives are now said to regret making the merger talks offer. They believe that Thyssen executives are only slightly less opposed to a merger than they are to a straight takeover.

Thyssen is suspected of conducting the talks in order to win more time to devise a defence strategy. Krupp has emphasised repeatedly that talks would not be extended beyond Thursday.

Together with the main political parties, Thyssen is also thought to be exerting political pressure on Krupp's bankers, especially Deutsche Bank, not to provide the credit needed to buy a majority of the Thyssen shares.

Both main political parties have a strong interest in

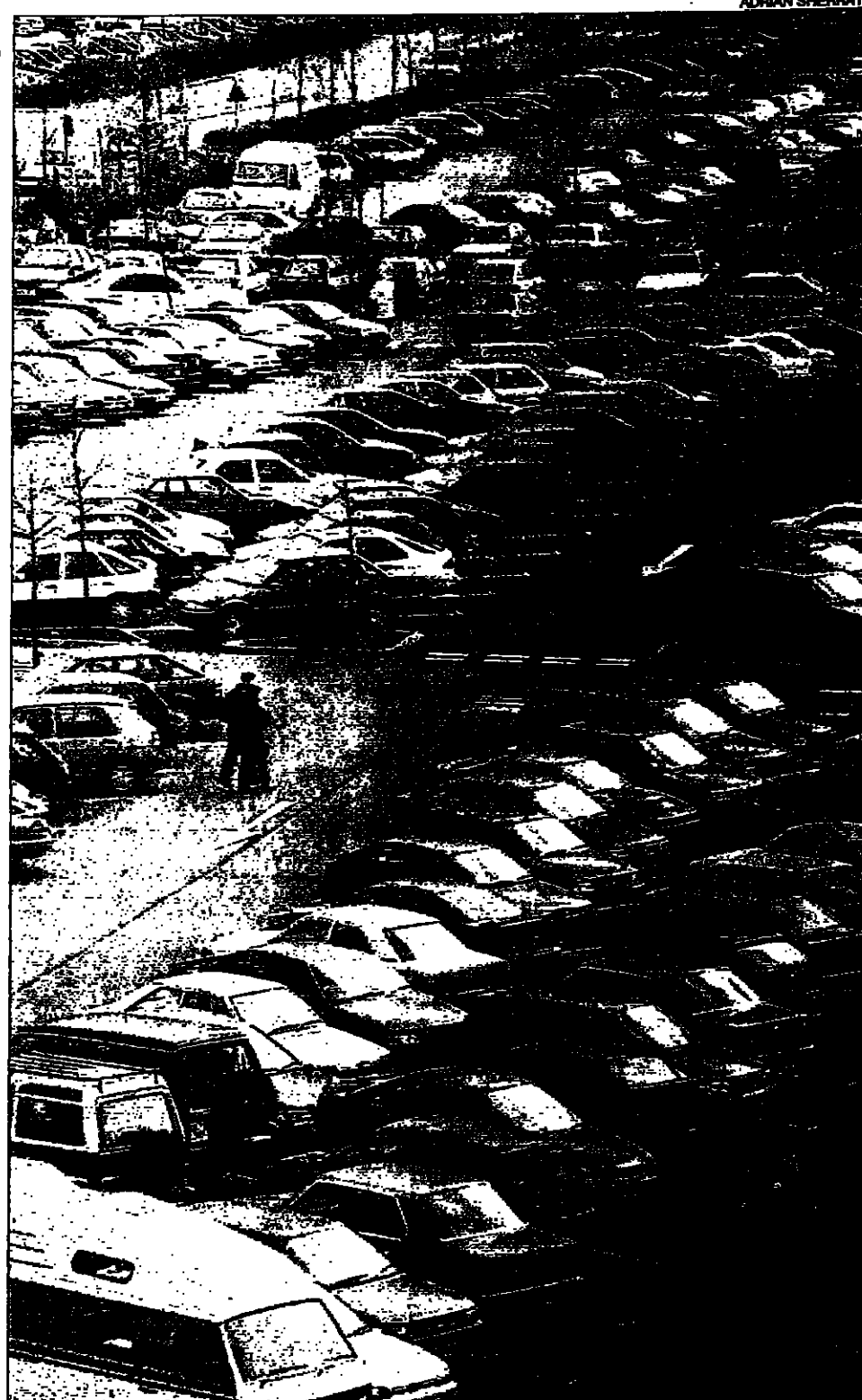
stopping the takeover. The Social Democrats traditionally style themselves as the defenders of manual jobs, thousands of which are set to go if Krupp is successful.

Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats are keen to keep unemployment down in the run-up to next year's general election and in order to bring down welfare spending to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single currency.

Thyssen's works council called on some 50,000 workers to stage a protest tomorrow in Frankfurt, taking their protest to the nation's financial capital. Georg Bongen, the Thyssen works council leader, said: "We are going to Frankfurt because we fear that our future cannot be helped by the democratically elected government in Bonn, but will instead be decided by the banks."

The banks have shown little reaction to the pressure so far. A top Deutsche Bank official may resign from the Thyssen supervisory board after the protests. Ulrich Cartellieri, who represents Deutsche's shareholder interests on the Thyssen board, said: "I will not rule out that I will give up my mandate at the end of the meeting on Thursday."

Studies by Deutsche, Dresdner and Goldman Sachs show a merger could show positive results as early as spring 1998, according to *Der Spiegel*, Germany's news magazine.



Shopping around: a crowded car park yesterday at the Lakeside centre in Essex

## Inflation worries over boom

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has engineered a pre-election consumer boom that will present the next government with an uncomfortable legacy of rising inflation and a manufacturing sector suffering under an uncompetitive exchange rate, the Oxford Economic Forecasting says.

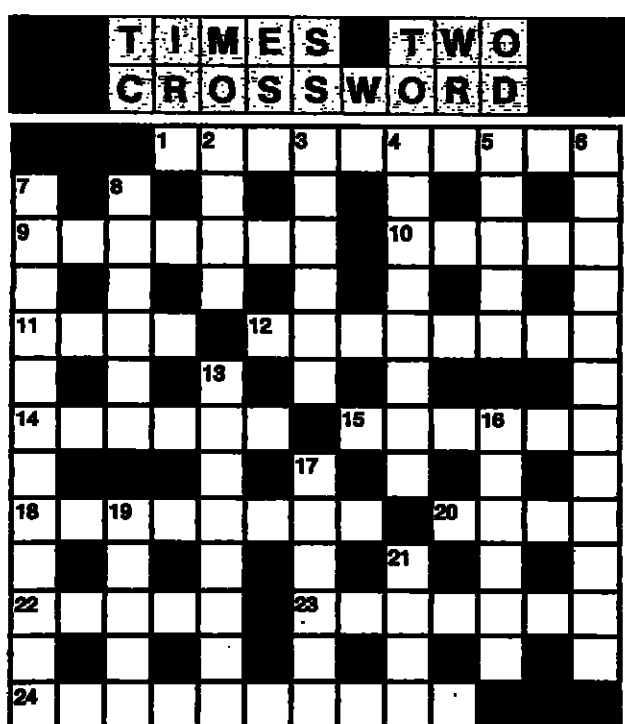
Oxford assumes the boom will not deliver an election victory to the Conservatives and that a Labour government is set for a bumpy economic ride over the next two years, with immediate upward pressure on base rates.

In 1997, growth is likely to strengthen further in the short term, led by buoyant consumer demand fuelled by tax cuts, low interest rates, rapidly falling unemployment and building society windfalls. Oxford predicts consumer spending to rise 4.2 per cent this year.

But then growth is expected to be curbed by a continued rally in sterling that will make exporting more difficult and hold back investment. Strong domestic demand and weaker exports are expected to mean that net trade becomes a serious drag on growth, increasing Britain's current account deficit to £6 billion in 1997, from £1.5 billion in 1996.

Overall, the economy is predicted to grow 3.1 per cent this year, but then fall to only 1.8 per cent in 1998. It is next year when the impact of the pound on exports is likely to be felt most and, at the same time, consumers will be hit by higher interest rates.

Economic outlook, page 43



No 1049

### ACROSS

- 1 Miss stroke (rowing) (5,1,4)
- 9 Passage: end of plane trip (7)
- 10 (Noise) cleared: (fuse) burned out (5)
- 11 Pie: 2 dn (4)
- 12 War memorial (8)
- 14 Peak (6)
- 15 Due from son (6)
- 18 Weak-headed hero (8)
- 20 Difficult (4)
- 22 Diplomat: messenger (5)
- 23 Denseness: unintelligibility (7)
- 24 Amuse delightfully (6,4)

### DOWN

- 2 Sharp; biting (4)
- 3 James — US gangster-film star (6)
- 4 Food of the gods (8)
- 5 A Spanish red (5)
- 6 Statutory days off (4,8)
- 7 First part of Bible (3,9)
- 8 NE-most Irish county (6)
- 13 Unfaithful (8)
- 16 Sloping, emphatic type (6)
- 17 Get back (expenses) (6)
- 19 Devastation, chaos (5)
- 21 Admonish (4)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1048

ACROSS: 1 Body 3 Offender 8 Rave 9 Fabulous  
11 Basketball 14 Cruise 15 Demise 17 Financiers 20 Surprise  
21 Puce 22 Apposite 23 Desk  
DOWN: 1 Bareback 2 Davis Cup 4 Flambe 5 Ebulience  
6 Doom 7 Rose 10 Versailles 12 Sinecure 13 Newpeak  
16 Fat cat 18 Asia 19 Prop

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## South West Trains plays down fines

South West Trains, the operator owned by Stagecoach and in hot water over cancellations of services in the South East, has played down suggestions that it faces heavy fines over the cancellations. Brian Cox, chairman of SWT, was to face the House of Commons Transport Committee last week, but the hearing was cancelled because of the election.

In a bid to set the record straight, he last night published his company's version of events. SWT intends to restore the full timetable on its routes at Easter, keeping its performance within the thresholds set by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. "By doing so we are confident we will avoid the penalty," he says.

### Sale hint

Louho shareholders will press the new management at Wednesday's annual meeting for news on the proposed demerger, to be met with a hint of an eventual sale of the African sugar business. Tate & Lyle is thought to be interested. Nicholas Morrell, chief executive, will come under attack from Pirc, which monitors corporate governance and is urging shareholders to block Sir John Craven's appointment as chairman. Sir John is chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Louho's merchant bank.

### Bank ratings

The Bank of England is considering the introduction of a numerical rating system to classify banks according to their risk profile, similar to that used by Moody's or Standard & Poor's, the bond rating agencies. The system, which would be confidential, forms part of the Bank's proposed framework for supervision developed in response to criticisms made after the collapse of Barings.

## Drummond and Microsoft in software fight

BY FRASER NELSON

MICROSOFT, the world's largest software house has challenged Drummond, the Bradford textiles group, to a High Court battle, after the worsted and woollens manufacturer was found using unauthorised copies of computer programmes.

The software giant has joined forces with Lotus, the business software publisher, to issue a writ demanding damages from Drummond, which has admitted using multiple copies of Microsoft Word and Lotus 1-2-3.

Drummond, which is quoted on the stock market with a value of £10 million, said it was astonished to learn that it had unauthorised software in use. Stefan Simmonds, chairman of Drummond, said: "Microsoft told us that we had a problem: we did a complete audit and

found we were at fault. They were right that the law is on their side and we're grateful that they told us.

"We offered what we considered a very fair sum in compensation, but then they tried to extract an unreasonably large amount of money from us. They threatened us with High Court action and some bad publicity, but we told them we are not fussed about publicity."

He added that the company was prepared to pay only an appropriate sum of money. The action is being filed through the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a body set up to rein in the proliferation of copied software in use by businesses.

Evan Cox, from law firm Covington & Burling, is acting for the BSA. He says: "We are seeking the full damages from Drummond, which we are entitled to under the law. We would have liked to have resolved this out of court but we could not agree on the final settlement."

Drummond is accused of using 97 copies of Microsoft Words, while having licences for 11, and using 90 copies of Lotus 1-2-3 with only 19 licences.

Microsoft was informed about Drummond through the BSA's "Software theft hotline" which offers up to £2,500 to employees who give information about infested software which leads to a successful swoop.

Mr Simmonds said: "It is entirely plausible that the call was made by somebody who did the copies himself. It would certainly be an easy way to make £2,500."

**IN BUSINESS TOMORROW**

**JANET BUSH**  
looks at labour market flexibility on the day US interest rates could rise

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Finding a cream that makes ageing skin young again is the dream of every cosmetic company. A laboratory in Israel may have some answers

Wheel power □ Building sight □ Traffic flow

## The circle of life

ROTARY motion is not common in living things. Animals that run on wheels have yet to be discovered, evolution having favoured legs, fins or wings. A remarkable exception is provided by the whip-like flagella with which swimming bacteria propel themselves. These can whirl around at a prodigious rate, propelling the tiny bacteria through the water at speeds which, scaled up, would give us cars that could break the sound barrier.

So it is very satisfying to discover that hidden inside every cell in the body are even tinier motors, upon which we depend for energy. Japanese researchers report in the current *Nature* journal that they have discovered the smallest motor in creation — an enzyme that rotates to do its work and is only five millionths of a millimetre across. The job of the enzyme is to create adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the power source of the cells. Energy from food is converted by the enzyme, ATP synthase, into chemical energy in the form of ATP. The energy is stored in the bonds between the phosphate groups, and cells can use it by breaking off a phosphate and turning ATP into its close relation, adenosine diphosphate (ADP).

The enzyme consists of seven components — a central axle, and six sub-units wrapped around it to form a collar. The Japanese team, led by Dr Hiroyuki Noji of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, shows that the inner



SCIENCE BRIEFING

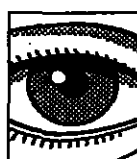
Nigel Hawkes

component is free to spin inside the collar. They proved this by attaching a fluorescent filament of a muscle protein to it and watching it through a microscope as it spun at up to four revolutions per second. The ATP synthase machine requires all seven of its components to work to accomplish its task. They also have to work in the right order. This is achieved by the rotor turning around so that the active sites of the sub-units forming the collar are presented to it one after the other. As it turns, the molecules of ATP are produced like sausages from a machine.

Biochemists know how quickly this reaction goes, so it is possible to work out how fast the motor should spin. Dr Stephen Block, of Princeton University, does this in a commentary in *Nature*, and comes up with a speed of 20 revolutions per second, five times faster than the Japanese team observed. The difference, he believes, is almost certainly accounted for by the drag caused by the muscle filament, which had to be attached to the axle to prove it was going round.

"What is stunning is that it is the very first time rotation has been demonstrated in an enzyme," says Dr Paul Boyer, an enzyme specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles, who first proposed that ATP synthase worked this way in the 1970s. "A picture is worth a thousand words: detecting the spinning visually is a very convincing demonstration."

## Evolution theory focuses on eyes



EYES have always been a challenge to evolutionists. It is difficult to work out how they evolved — although Richard Dawkins made a valiant effort in his book *Climbing Mount Improbable* — and the forms of eyes differ so radically in different creatures that it appears that the eye must have evolved not once, but many times.

That merely compounds the mystery. This is not so, as some new results suggest. Dr Stanislav Tomarek, of the US National Eye Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, and Dr Walter Gehring, of the University of Basel, transferred the gene responsible for forming the eye in squid into fruit flies.

They report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that the flies developed eyes in places where their wings, legs and antennae normally grow.

The fact that a gene from a mollusc, whose evolution diverged from other animals 500-600 million years ago, can produce eyes in fruit flies suggests strongly that the eye evolved only once, and that all the forms of eyes seen in different species are merely elaborations on a basic theme.

## Program that puts you in the fast lane



THE flow of traffic on a motorway is subject to many unexpected variations, as every driver knows. Now a computer program developed by a physicist from AEA Technology at Harwell in Oxfordshire, Dr Laurence Howe, can be used to explore these changes safely.

Dr Howe's model, which is to be demonstrated at the Institute of Physics annual congress in Leeds later this month, categorises drivers as timid, ideal, normal, impatient, or aggressive. It also categorises the range of vehicles on the road, from heavy lorries to fast cars, by features such as their speed, mass, length, and braking power.

The system, called Vedens, can model up to six lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, randomly selecting each vehicle and driver in the proportions found on real roads.

It is then possible to model situations such as lane closures and see what happens to the flow. He has already found that extra lanes are valuable when traffic is joining the motorway, but offer few benefits at an exit slip-road if more than about a fifth of the traffic wants to turn off.

# The secret of young skin

Growing old is a miserable business. The slide downhill begins with a few lines around the eyes. The descent quickens as wrinkles become more deeply etched. As the glowing smoothness of youth turns inexorably into the pallid leatherness of old age, who does not dream of staying forever young?

Now medical researchers claim to have taken an important step towards turning back the clock. A team of scientists at the Haifa Technion in Israel has taken samples of wrinkly skin from elderly volunteers and transformed them into "young" skin. But they admit they are still a long way from discovering the secret of eternal youth.

Small squares of skin were taken from the thighs of 20 patients aged between 75 and 85. Each human skin patch was grafted on to the back of a nude mouse, a hairless animal specially bred to have a feeble immune system. Its poor immunity rendered it incapable of rejecting the graft.

At the same time, the cut-and-graft procedure was repeated with samples from volunteers in their twenties. This second set of grafts provided a yardstick against which to measure quality. Dr Amos Gilhar, a dermatologist from the Skin Research Laboratory at the technion, monitored the progress of the transplanted skin under the microscope. His aim was to see whether aged skin could recover its youthful characteristics.

The skin, the largest organ

of the human body, is made up of a thin outer layer (the epidermis) and a thicker layer beneath (the dermis). The epidermis is like armour-plating — it is tough and has an outer layer of dead cells. The dermis contains nerves, blood vessels and living cells.

Dr Gilhar investigated five skin properties that dwindle with age — the rate at which skin cells divide and renew themselves; the number of melanocytes, the cells that produce the pigment melanin; the number of Langerhans cells, which act as sentinels to protect the skin from infection; the thickness of the epidermis and the number of blood vessels. As these attributes decline, the skin is less able to replenish itself. It gradually thins and becomes more sallow and translucent.

When Dr Gilhar observed the old samples three months after transplantation, he was stunned. "Under the microscope," he says, "the old grafted samples looked identical to the young grafted samples. We found a significant increase in both epidermal thickness and the rate at which the epidermis cells proliferated. However, the number of protective

## The ageing process may be reversible, says Anjana Ahuja

Langerhans cells did not increase."

Another feature that improved was the junction between the epidermis and the dermis. In youth, these two serrated layers interlock perfectly. As the years advance, the serrations become blunted and the alignment between them weakens, leaving the skin prone to blisters.

Dr Gilhar found that in the transplanted skin, the two layers regained their serrated appearance and fitted together more closely. The number of blood vessels also increased. In short, as Dr Gilhar summarises in a research paper: "All these findings may indicate that part of the typical histological (tissue) changes of unexposed aged skin are reversible."

Further investigation re-

vealed that transplantation appears to kick-start chemicals called cytokines. These proteins perform such bodily functions as regulating immune responses and instructing cells to divide. As a person ages, cytokines become scarcer, either because production slows down or their release into the skin is hindered. Dr Gilhar says: "We assume that the transplant procedure somehow led to enhanced secretion of these proteins."

Dr Gilhar and his team of ten researchers have been doing experiments for seven years. The work is funded solely by the technion and there are no plans to collaborate with any cosmetics companies. "There could be important commercial spin-offs," says Dr Gilhar, "but we want to concentrate on the basic science for at least two or three years."

There is intense competition in the beauty industry to find an elixir that will soothe the ravages of time. Two months ago, the collective quest to bottle youth looked as though it had succeeded. Syence, a cosmetic company, claimed it had developed a cream, Servital, which thickened the

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## THEATRE

Mad monarch time for Ian Holm as he takes the title role in *King Lear* at the National Theatre

OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



## FILM

Strictly Bard room: Baz Luhrmann gives a contemporary flavour to *Romeo and Juliet*

OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



## BOOKS

A thousand years from now: Arthur C. Clarke turns the clock forward to 3001

IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Saturday



## OPERA

Catherine Malfitano goes headhunting as *Salome* comes back to the Royal Opera House

OPENS: Saturday  
REVIEW: Monday

**ARTS**  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

# Battle of the ballerinas

DANCE: Debra Craine on the first night of Covent Garden's enjoyable revival of *La Bayadère*

This is a tricky ballet to get right. With its lavishly exotic setting, its grandiose and his- trionic gestures, its lustily melodramatic scenario and its hilariously incongruous Viennese melodies, *La Bayadère* can easily be dismissed as a kitsch potboiler. Enjoyable kitsch, yes, as indeed this revival is. But Petipa's 1877 oriental spectacle is more than that. It's the heartbreaking tale of poor Nikiya, the Indian temple dancer — the bayadère — betrayed by her warrior lover and murdered by her royal rival. And her dance at their betrothal festivities is one of profound sadness. Or at least it should be.

The problem on Saturday, opening night of the Royal Ballet's revival of Natalia Makarova's production, was one of casting. Covent Garden fielded its two biggest female stars — Sylvie Guillem and Doreen Bussell — in the leading roles. But, as it turned out, they probably should have swapped places.

Guillem, for all her extraordinary talents, is not the ballerina to play Nikiya. Although she generated some wonderful moments of spontaneous delight in her first pas de deux with Jonathan Cope's Solor, her own personality as a dancer quickly got in the way. Her style is too ornate and ostentatious for a humble bayadère, her demeanour too grand to be reconciled with Nikiya's essential modesty. Indeed, Guillem possesses all the glamour and imperiousness that rightly belong to Gamzatti, the Rajah's daughter who steals Solor away from Nikiya. This was the part taken by Bussell, who was

more than happy with the difficult choreography, but not quite so effective in a role that requires her to subdue her natural benevolence.

Gamzatti and Solor's "do" in the palace garden is one of the highlights of the ballet, the scene in which the flashiest dancing takes place. Diver- tissements, solos and pas de deux busy a stage already brimful with partygoers. Bussell and Cope shone at the centre of it all, delivering generous and confident phrases of exciting dance.

Guillem's entry into the festivities announced that trouble was on the horizon. But the torment of Solor's betrayal was acted out by Guillem in an introspective solo that failed to ignite the tragedy of Nikiya's situation.

And the subsequent Kingdom of the Shades, which finds the dead Nikiya staring in Solor's guilt-ridden, opium-induced hallucination, produced a surprisingly blank interpretation from Guillem, almost as if she could find no meaning in what is one of the most evocative scenes in 19th-century Russian ballet.

As the man in the middle of two formidable women, a dashing Cope seemed to be having a whale of a time. His initial scenes with Guillem were driven by a convincing ardour, and he had the decency later to look ashamed of himself for agreeing to marry Gamzatti. The production as a whole looked revived, the cast having been coached by Makarova, and aside from a brief attack of the shakes, the Shades made a convincing case for themselves.



Sylvie Guillem: miscast as Nikiya in the Royal Ballet's revival of *La Bayadère*

FLORENCE revived Haydn's *Orfeo*, also known as *L'anima del filosofo*, for Maria Callas in the early 1950s. She sang only two performances before deciding that Eurydice was not for her. Haydn must shoulder some of the blame. *Orfeo* is a clumsily constructed piece, as far as the lead soprano is concerned and he might well have tinkered with his only London-commissioned opera had it been performed in his lifetime, which it was not.

Eurydice's death from the bite of a poisonous serpent inspired Haydn to one of his most powerful and dramatic numbers. But that comes midway through Act II and three more acts follow during which Eurydice scarcely gets a look in. Felony is compounded in Act III. Haydn gives the second soprano a brilliant display aria as the Sibyl, whom Orpheus consults about getting back his lost love. Take on the

## A joyous presentation of a Greek tragedy

## OPERA

Orfeo ed Eurydice  
QEII

Christiane Oelze was Anne Trulove in *The Rake* two years ago and her Eurydice shows the same ability to convey purity and innocence. Her soprano stays light and delicate and she steered well clear of over- doing things as Eurydice expires. The sighing was rightly left to the orchestra, which had an invigorating evening under Frieder Bernius.

Claron McFadden was a late replacement as the Sibyl and she glittered away with a fusillade of high notes as awesome as those Mozart gave the Queen of the Night. The Sibyl comes and goes, but Orpheus himself is on stage for most of the time. Kurt Streit, a highly accomplished Mozartian, had no problems in a part punishing not least because of lengthy recitatives Haydn might have snipped a bit. Streit has the lyric qualities, which proclaim Orpheus the saviour of souls, and also the bottom register to cope with the low notes strewn throughout the part. Creon, Eurydice's father, is a stereotype, but his three arias at least have variety as William Dazeley was quick to emphasise.

Terry Edwards's London Voices in every thing from cupids to bacchantes. Clean sound, poor diction.

There is a further performance tomorrow.

JOHN HIGGINS

### THEATRE: Men behave badly; friends behave sadly

## Desperately seeking two closet husbands

Exposition  
Arts Theatre

TWO COUPLES in Tom Minter's new play are torn apart by husbands who have bedtime secrets. Instead of staying at home with Laura, frustrated novelist William drinks heavily and stalks public toilets looking for rough trade. It comes along in the form of bleached blond Bobby (Robert Miles), who, when he has finished servicing William for a fee, turns up at barrister James's office to help him put in some unlikely overtime. Considering that James's career is dependent on detail and discretion, the ease with which the rent boy wafers through his office is irritatingly implausible. But then, so is most of this play.

That best friends William and James lead clandestine gay lives outside their marriages, and that neither knows the other's secret, is not wildly improbable, but neither is it wildly convincing. It doesn't help that both wives are little more than wallpaper in Minter's melodrama. Laurel Endelman's Laura and Kate Anthony's Joyce dutifully set up situations where their husbands can behave like churls.

The action is spread thinly over a week. The four first gather with the subtlety of buffalo to watch a French film:

we next see them at the theatre, arguing about an issue play during the interval; and then they fall out — at least the men do — at a subsequent dinner party. Behind the squabbles in public and the rifts in private lies the fact that if William and James were honest with themselves, they should have been lovers when they were students, instead of cultivating convenient marriages and crippled lives. This is Minter's "exposition". Revelatory it ain't.

He searches in vain for the wit of Joe Orton and the wisdom of Mike Leigh. He finds neither. The dialogue works fluently on three levels:

the banal, the obscure and the over-emotive. Trevor Sellers's James is boorish to his wife Joyce and, for want of any other emotion, sadistic towards the financially desperate William. You are never quite sure whether Niall Ashdown's surly William reels with self-pity or alcohol poisoning. Predictably the conviction of these performances flakes off as rapidly as the interest in Areta Breeze's woeful production. Andrew Hunt's set outperforms the rest, cleverly converting itself from a cinema into what looks aptly like an abattoir.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Trevor Sellers plays James the married barrister, Robert Miles is Bobby the rent boy in Tom Minter's *Exposition*

## Repulsive state of play

IS IT the mark of a skilful playwright that within a few moments of the opening, one already views the characters of his play with passionate irritation? If so, Declan Hughes is a playwright of notable craft. His latest for Rough Magic, *Halloween Night* (at Andrew's Lane), features a cast of self-obsessed, cowardly, drive-spouting de- bauchees, each one of such uncommon repulsiveness that the prospect of spending even a couple of hours in their company is distressing.

True, even the playwright appears to have little sympathy for this gang, but its members are so patently unattractive that it soon becomes almost an impossibility to separate a growing irritation with them from feelings about the play.

The friends have retreated to Ireland's western seaboard for a Halloween reunion. But although someone mentions a loy, this is clearly not J.M. Synge's West. The cottage has

Halloween Night  
Dublin

been the base for a hipster design company and still features all-black decor, full-size mural of Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* and a big dark, alcohol pit of a refrigerator. Kathy Strachan's sharp set design adds skulls, bones and other seasonal favours, but even without them the mess- age is clear: this is a fair fit for only *fin de siècle* hobgoblins.

An ensemble cast scratch, claw and yawn their way through the night, editorialising on relationships, post-nationalist politics, the significance of the *Raft of the Medusa*, the end of history and even foodies, who, one jaded urbane in a tailcoat suggests, are post-religious mystics with a desire to commune with God by eating him. The specific topics may be new, but the scenario is uncannily familiar. If the party's

recovering heroin addict movie director, Paddy, were to pitch *Halloween Night* as a feature he might describe it as Ken Russell's *Gothic* meets *The Big Chill*, or more pointedly, *Friends in Hell*.

The pitch might seem to bring things down to a coarse level, but Hughes's writing is never lavish with subtlety. For all his ambitious range of subjects, Hughes's conversations frequently seem to do no more than strut at the time- wokeness of analyses. Matters are not entirely helped by Lynn Parker's direction, which conjures up plenty of forced debauchery, but little convincing hedonism. Spluttering between bouts of melodramatic Romanticism and dandified chit-chat, between blow jobs and apocalyptic preachiness, this party (which transfers to London as part of the Donmar's Four Corners Season in April) turns out to be an arduous knees-up.

LUKE CLANCY

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## Women's last stand in Oxford

Angelica Goodden on the ironies of men moving into St Hilda's

The recent vote by the governing body of St Hilda's College, Oxford, to open its fellowship to men is widely thought to have delivered the coup de grâce to the university's single-sex tradition. But St Hilda's may yet reverse its decision, and for a significant reason. Perhaps the true issue is not the economic factors that prompted the vote for change, but the cause of female academics. What St Hilda's plight shows is how badly the law against sexual discrimination has miscarried.

It is widely known that women are chronically under-represented in university life. Even in the United States, the Mecca of academics, barely 14 per cent of full professors are held by women. In Oxford, women have a similarly low proportion of the permanent academic jobs; some faculties, including my own, have no female professors at all. Yet the proportion of female undergraduates at Oxford, like most British universities, is now some 40 per cent and will soon reach parity with men.

Common sense suggests that positive steps should be taken to increase the proportion of women in university teaching; but because St Hilda's elects only women to its tutorial fellowships, it is deemed to be in breach of equal opportunities legislation, and so is punished financially by its parent institution. Because St Hilda's does not actively support the rights of men, the University of Oxford cannot legally support it and contributes nothing to the cost of university lectureships that St Hilda's badly needs.

The irony, of course, is that the pendulum has actually swung decisively in the direction of "men's rights". Three of the other four colleges founded for women a century ago have now embraced the cause of male employment so enthusiastically that men constitute roughly three-quarters of their fellowship, though Somerville, the last to go mixed, has not yet emulated them. But perhaps it is not a question of conscious enthusiasm. Men, so the argument goes, are simply better equipped to teach certain academic subjects (particularly scientific ones), and it is incumbent on any employer to choose the best person for the job.

No doubt there is some truth in this. But given growing concerns about "gender bias" at both senior and junior levels of academic life, a degree of scepticism is in order. Science fellows at St Hilda's are far from unanimous in agreeing that competent women cannot be found for appointments to scientific posts. Does the fact that men hold so many jobs in areas where women's strengths are acknowledged — that is, in arts subjects — mean that men are somehow better than women at making a case for themselves? Do men impress interviewing panels as more proficient, dynamic and capable than women? It is inconceivable that the case that most men, not having children to bear, have more time to devote to other kinds of produc-

tion, with consequential benefits to their curriculum vitae. Aside from this, men applying for university jobs may simply assert an unconscious or semi-conscious authority that their historically disadvantaged female peers are without. The likelihood of bias in those who are assessing their relative professional strengths may seem remote, but it still deserves investigation.

The need is all the more pressing in the light of recent research at Cambridge which, while suggesting that female undergraduates find female supervisors less confrontational and intimidating than male ones, also indicated that the "masculine" qualities of aggressiveness, fearlessness, decisiveness and panache earn examination candidates more marks than the "feminine" qualities of patience and sensitivity. In other words, bravado (often disguising shallowness and lack of preparation) leads to a better degree than piousness. The figures showing that men are awarded more firsts than women may simply mean that men, rather than being inherently more intelligent than women, have better learnt how to sell themselves.

Perhaps, then, female achievement — or lack of it — at senior levels of university life parallels female achievement (or the lack of it) at the junior level, with the self-presentation skills more common in men than women being decisive in both. This possibility should cause grave concern to all who take education seriously.

The unique identity of an institution such as St Hilda's is neither quaint nor irrelevant. As long as doubts remain about the equity of judgments of academic performance and potential, the importance of the female view must be tirelessly proclaimed. As long as the suspicion of subconscious discrimination on sexual grounds persists, the interests of those who may be so discriminated against must be supported.

Financial pressures on universities are frightening, and perhaps frightening women more than men. The fear of letting heart rule head (traditionally seen as a female weakness) has led a number of women at St Hilda's to vote for change. But wishing to retain our distinctive character is a pragmatic impulse, not a product of emotional yearning. A college founded in the name of disadvantage, and which has been poverty-stricken since its foundation, cannot easily ride the financial storm which has long been brewing as a consequence of equal opportunities legislation. The old, strong desire to preserve the distinctiveness of an all-female institution should not hastily give way to market forces. Many beyond the college deprecate the stamped-out coeducation, declaring that variety is what the university needs. But none has ever attempted to translate conviction into action.

The author is a fellow of St Hilda's College.

The time for a change argument is boosting the Scottish Nationalists, but their hopes are unrealistic

## Can Scotland go it alone into Europe?

support the Labour local government in big cities. John Smith was their ideal leader, coming from the right wing of old Labour. Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked the party. The qualities that make Tony Blair popular in England tend to tell against him in Scotland.

If "time for a change" is working for anyone in Scotland, it is working for the SNP. It is picking up alienated Labour votes, but at the cost of appearing as a party to the left of Labour. Not so long ago, Labour activists sneered at the SNP as "tartan Tories", and the SNP did indeed have right-wing as well as left-wing supporters. Now its right-wing support is drying up. Jacob has already been canvassing the more Conservative sections of Glenrothes, the new town which forms the main part of the constituency. Of the few who have raised the SNP question, three have said they would vote SNP, but three have said that they voted SNP at the last election but are not going to do so again. That does not have the makings of an SNP landslide in Fife.

There are not many Liberal Democrats in Central Fife, though they have Menzies Campbell next door in Fife North East, a Liberal-Conservative marginal. Menzies Campbell is a much respected figure in the old Scottish liberal tradition; I suspect that this tradition, which I admire as much in decline as the old Scottish

Tory tradition of Alec Douglas-Home. Scotland is not going back to the lairds.

The Scottish Conservatives are suffering from the general unpopularity of the Government, but even that looks different north of the border. Scottish Tories do not talk much about John Major; the focus of their loyalty is much more likely to be Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State. He is a genuinely popular figure in Scotland, respected even by people opposed to his politics. Labour

Union is seen as a generous provider of regional funds, and as a potential ally for Scottish nationalism, whereas English nationalists see Europe as a threat to national independence. Euroscepticism has little resonance in Scotland. I found that the issues which might arise from the SNP's policy of an independent Scotland inside the European Union were new to most of my audience. I suspect that many Scots see the appeal of the policy but have not yet seen its difficulties.

There are two European objections to admitting a separate Scotland. The first is funding. Ireland has been a very large beneficiary from EU funds, most of which are provided by Germany and some by the United Kingdom. Scotland would not get the same benefits as Ireland. After the experience of funding East Germany, and with the need to fund the East European candidates for entry to the EU, Germany will not take on an increased commitment to pay for Scotland. The German economy is in difficulties, with high unemployment. The message that would be given to an applicant Scotland by the EU is "the gravy train has been cancelled until further notice".

Scotland might not be admitted at all. All the larger European countries have reason to fear the fragmentation of Europe. Scotland joined the United Kingdom by the Act of Union in 1706; Bavaria joined the German Empire only in 1871. Catalonia has as strong

claim to separate membership of the EU as Scotland; so perhaps has Lombardy; so have the Basques, the Flemings and/or the Walloons. To admit a separate Scotland to the EU would threaten the disintegration of Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. That is not something the EU will be keen to facilitate.

The constitutional ferment in Scotland is based on real emotions and is going to have an impact on the whole United Kingdom. The Unionists in Scotland naturally have a much better understanding of the reality of Scottish nationalism than anyone in London. They recognise the strength of Scottish national patriotism, which they share. What they fear is that a Scottish parliament, inevitably dominated by the Labour vote in Strathclyde, would quarrel with a future Westminster Parliament of a different party, as such a Scottish parliament might have quarrelled with Margaret Thatcher's administration. They fear that such a quarrel would break up the United Kingdom. They want to find a better way forward.

One interesting new element has been injected into this debate: Andrew Neil has become editorial director of *The Scotsman*, which in two or three months has been changed almost out of recognition. It is now very reminiscent of the aggressive, anti-establishment but open-market *Sunday Times* of the 1980s. *The Scotsman's* line on the sleaze allegations has been as tough as anyone's. Indeed, Scottish Tories much resent it. Yet Andrew Neil is not a little Scotland man, but a radical anti-establishment Scottish Thatcherite like Michael Forsyth himself: both believe in meeting global competition. The Adam Smith case for open-market Scotland does not now lack champions. When the campaign starts, I think Jacob is going to have some fascinating issues to discuss.

William Rees-Mogg

knows that he is the Tory it has to beat. I heard one comment, not from a Conservative, that he has been "by light years the best Secretary of State of modern times". He is also seen by Scots as a real Scot, not an Englishman in a kilt. I would not give anyone else much chance of holding his ultra-marginal seat of Stirling, but he might just do it. If he does, he could come back to Westminster as the one member of the Cabinet with a really successful election campaign.

Europe is a good deal more popular in Scotland than in England. For the Scottish voter, the European

## Time to show some boldness

Peter Riddell says Labour's election-winning strategy is short on frankness



are regulated and licensed by statute would be "eligible" for such a levy, but only those that have earned excess profits will be "liable". This would limit the main impact to the regional electricity and water companies. Otherwise, by proposing an audit of the "books", Mr Brown is preparing the way for a "shock, horror" revelation when, as the incoming Chancellor, he can claim the figures are worse than he expected, and blame the Tories for any need to raise taxes.

But Mr Brown already knows that the projections in the Treasury's Red Book are flawed, even though he has pledged to maintain spending plans for the next two years. These spending totals, and the recent growth rate of health spending, can be maintained only by cuts in programmes such as social security

(which Labour has opposed), and/or by higher taxes. The over-optimism may be the Tories' fault, but the constraint is already clear.

That is why Mr Brown is wrong to raise hopes about the early introduction of a 10 per cent starting rate of income tax. If this is to have any real impact, it will involve higher taxes for the better-off.

Mr Blair was right yesterday to emphasise in the *News of the World* the importance of trust on tax. But he may live to regret the firmness of his remark that "if, after five years, I break my promises on tax, on not raising basic and top rates of income tax, on trade unions and these essential things I have said we will do, we are gone. We are probably

finished for ever". Labour is in danger of being too clever by half, since the basic and higher rates are symbolic and are not the same as the overall tax burden. Even after Mr Brown's promise yesterday, not to increase national insurance contributions, there are many other ways to raise taxes. Many voters will not understand the distinction if personal taxes rise in other ways, and Labour would be accused of betraying the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Blair's pledge.

For all their caution about making new promises, Mr Blair and Mr Brown have so far failed to prepare the ground for the necessary and difficult decisions on paying for existing programmes, with the important exception of replacing student grants by loans. Avoiding pledges to reverse Tory changes is not

enough. Any new government will have to explore new ways of financing public services, such as an earmarked health tax, as well as further privatisation.

Labour's risk-averse strategy has drawn heavily on the lessons of the Clinton campaigns in 1992 and 1996, and is similarly driven by polling and market research. Mr Blair's advisers are worried by evidence of a sceptical mood among voters, and have been keen to minimise the distance between the main parties when it comes to Europe, and especially a single currency. This was reflected in the markedly sceptical, at times almost nationalist, language in Mr Blair's article in *The Sun* last Monday, which was followed by that paper's endorsement of Labour the next day.

Even though Mr Blair is dubious about the merits of monetary union now, his vision of Britain's role in Europe is totally different from the populist scepticism of *The Sun*. Labour advisers are being too cynical for their long-term good. They say "wait until after the election and you will see our true pro-European colours". I agree. Mr Blair will be keen to demonstrate that he wants, and is able, to pursue a more positive approach than John Major could. But a willingness to compromise at the Amsterdam summit in June will bring charges of betrayal from some of his fair-weather supporters in the press.

Mr Blair has a clear idea of his priorities on education, welfare reform, relations with business and Europe, and constitutional reform. He knows what he wants Britain to be like in five years' time. But he has not spelt out what this will involve, the means as well as the ends. The ruthless and so far successful campaigning strategy risks being all things to all people. Labour will no doubt claim that if it wins a big majority, it will have a mandate for its programme. But it will not if it fails now to address the choices facing Britain. Mr Blair should show some of the same boldness as a prospective Prime Minister that he has displayed as Labour leader.

## And be damned

WRITERS who feel badly treated by their publishers have a new and unlikely hero in Darius Guppy. Last week, via the High Court, he instituted proceedings against his publisher, Blake Publishing, in order to recover the third and final payment for his autobiography, *Roll the Dice*.

Before taking on this new role as publishing's Wat Tyler, Citizen

Guppy was best known for his Pink Pantherish attempt to defraud Lloyd's of London with a faked jewel theft. Bungling on the job landed him a spell in chocky, which was awkward for one who had served as best man to the present Earl Spencer.

Blake Publishing, whose stable includes Ronnie Kray, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith and the Duchess of York's psychic friend Madame Vasso, paid Guppy a hefty advance for his book. When the final cheque was due, however, Guppy was told several times that it was "in the post".

After a couple of months, he grew fed up and on March 6, after Blake failed to put in a defence, he obtained a judgment ordering it to cough up or give a good reason for not doing so, and on March 17 he applied to have its assets seized. All rather embarrassing for Blake, which is said to want to go upmarket.

All rights and royalties from the book and an expected film should now revert to Guppy, who is revelling in the fight. "Now he has the law working for him rather than against him," says one close friend, "there's no stopping him."



Guppy: upper hand

● Good old Peter Mandelson, the caring new Labour campaign director. When the election was called, he rallied the 100 or so youths who run the Labour war-room in Millbank Tower and told them they should follow his lead by taking plenty of vitamins and giving up alcohol for the duration. Over at Tory Central Office, they are without such pastoral care. After 10pm, out comes the whisky — and recriminations soon follow.

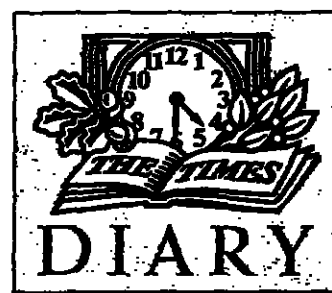
### Yanked out

HORSEY English accents and Jeremy Street shirts were greatly in evidence at the opening of the International Asian Art Fair in New York on Friday night.

Of the 50 exhibitors, 20 are from London, including the one-time Kensington Palace habitude Oliver Hoare, the St James's gong-peddlars Spink & Sons, Bond Street's John Eskenazi and Mount Street's Michael Gillingham, whose left eyebrow quivered in discreet ecstasy at the dollar sales figures.

At the bar it was British G & T's all round, with one son of Albion loudly calling out: "None of that ice in mine, thank you, Luigi." Could this really be Manhattan?

All that was missing was the Duchess of York, who was expected



to arrive with the Hong Kong billionaire David Tang. Her place was capably filled by a svelte Ghislaine Maxwell. The Old Marlborough ex-pat manfully resisted the lentic curry canapés, explaining: "Me skirt will burst if I do."

### Scotch broth

NOT before time, Scottish Opera, one of the most troubled opera companies in the world, has chosen a martinet as its new general director. Ruth Mackenzie, 40, has earned a formidable reputation as executive director of Nottingham Playhouse for the past seven years. She will take up her Scottish posting in September. "I am thrilled to be joining the company at so exciting a time," she says.

In recent years, Scottish Opera

has been getting through staff as quickly as Liberace went through sequins. Last year it even considered doing away with its orchestra — an essential, one would have thought, for an opera company.

● Tired of Tupperware, chafed by charity work, the ladies who lunch have a new excuse to run up their platinum card bills. In Langan's Brasserie, Mayfair, the other day a table of women with fixed hair and fixed lips sat surrounded by the rubble of a champagne lunch. One of them was wearing a veil. On inquiry it turned out they were celebrating the fact that their veiled friend had decided not to get married. They called this event an unwedding party.



"I like it, I like it"

brating the fact that their veiled friend had decided not to get married. They called this event an unwedding party.

### Ring cycle

ON the day of the Tories' victory in the 1992 general election, Michael Portillo, then Minister for Local Government, pulled out his mobile telephone in an Italian restaurant and rang his Labour Shadow David Blunkett to gloat.

This time round, Blunkett is hoping for revenge. He bumped into Portillo recently in the Commons and demanded his mobile number. Portillo promised to send it round the next day, blithely brushing aside the possibility that this time round it will be him eating the humble pie and Blunkett the ravioli.

### As I say...

BACK IN January, PHS predicted that it would not be long before Honor Fraser, the Scottish model, was signed up as the face of the French fashion house, Givenchy. Now, according to those close to her, it's a deal.

Miss Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat, has been close to Alexander Mc-



Honored in France

Queen, chief designer at the French fashion house, ever since he was cutting brocade on his kitchen table. Her cousin, Stella Tennant, will doubtless be passing on advice, having ousted Claudia Schiffer to become the face of Chanel last year. The money Miss Fraser is likely to make from the contract should ensure that she need never concern herself with the cost of a laddered tight again.

P.H.S.





## HARD LABOUR

Blair has to stick to tough free-market employment policies

Britain is booming, proclaims the latest Tory election poster. Unemployment has fallen to just 6.2 per cent, the Office for National Statistics announced on Wednesday. Why, then, are jobs still cited as the third most important problem facing Britain, after health and education? And why is Labour seen as having better policies on unemployment by a majority of three to one?

An informed debate on employment issues ought to play a central role in the election campaign. And a proper understanding of these issues will be even more important after the voting is over, since a Labour government would be under intense pressure from its supporters to revert to a traditionalist strategy on job creation, work-place conditions and union rights. The critical arguments about employment, discussed in today's Election Guide on page 6, can be boiled down to two points.

While Britain's job market has performed well by European standards in the three years of economic recovery since the 1991-92 recession, the long-term employment record in the 18 years of Tory government gives no cause for self-satisfaction. Unemployment today is still higher than it was when Margaret Thatcher took office. This one fact may alone be sufficient to explain the continuing public anxiety about jobs, even without considering the less secure nature of today's employment, the widespread hardship caused by compulsory early retirements and the big transfer of jobs in favour of women and part-timers at the expense of full-time men. Another statistical cause for concern is that the total rate of employment growth in Britain since 1979 has not been significantly higher, despite all the new-found flexibility and deregulation, than in the hidebound economies of France, Italy and probably Germany (where figures have been distorted by reunification in 1989).

But against all these disappointments must be set one overwhelming and unquestionable achievement of the Tory period: the taming of the trade unions and the creation of a completely new culture of economic realism, productivity, and competitiveness in British industrial relations. It is easy to forget that the question of whether the country should be governed by Parliament or by trade unions dominated British politics not only in the 1979 election, but also in the elections of 1974, 1970 and 1966. During both of the last two Labour Governments, ministers found it literally impossible to imagine how they could run the economy and avoid galloping inflation without imposing incomes policies and offering the unions decisive political power.

By breaking the monopoly power of the trade unions, by deregulating the labour market, and by focusing economic policy on incentives, productivity and profits, rather than political intervention, archaic tradition and coercive rights, the Tories put in place the foundations for an economic renaissance in Britain. If the benefits of these reforms have not yet been more impressively manifested, the explanation lies partly in the Tories' own macroeconomic mismanagement, but also in the simple fact that supply-side reforms inevitably take many years to produce results. A newly elected Labour government could conclude that the Tories' employment reforms were not, after all, what the country needed and drift back to the old collectivist approach. This would be nothing short of a tragedy for Britain.

Tony Blair seems aware of the disastrous consequences of returning even part way to his party's old policies on employment. But a Labour government, by its very nature, would contain loud and powerful voices for turning back the clock. And many of Mr Blair's policies — on the social chapter, on minimum wages and on union recognition — suggest that he may be ready to appease the traditionalists. Nothing will be more important for Mr Blair than to resist old Labour's siren calls for re-regulating the workplace — and nothing will be harder.

## RUSSIA'S WOUNDED PRIDE

The West must show that Helsinki was not another Versailles

President Yeltsin surprised everyone at Helsinki last week with his physical vigour and political agility. Fit, alert and jovial, he spent long hours negotiating with President Clinton and decided to make the best of a weak hand. Knowing that he could not stop the eastward expansion of Nato, he used the occasion to wring from Mr Clinton what concessions he could. He was promised virtually full membership of the renamed "Summit of the Eight", he was offered a rapid beginning to Start 3 negotiations on nuclear reductions and he was given assurances of backing for Russian membership of the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club of export credit agencies.

On the crucial issue of Nato expansion, however, he achieved almost nothing. Mr Clinton promised that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deployed on the territory of the three proposed new members; and he promised a document in the next few weeks detailing Russia's role in co-ordinating policy with Nato. Both had long been assumed to be the minimum necessary to allow expansion to go ahead at all. Mr Yeltsin won no new assurances that former Soviet republics would be kept out of Nato and no guarantee that the proposed Nato-Russia Council would be legally binding. All he obtained was an agreement to disagree and soothing words about Nato's peaceful intentions.

To Mr Yeltsin's critics, his performance was lamentable. Accusations of capitulation echoed around Moscow even before he arrived home. The Communists said out loud what everyone in Russia, and the West, recognises: Russia is being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom". More ominously, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, compared the summit out-

come to the treaty of Versailles. The parallels may not be exact. But if Russians are provoked by nationalist demagogues into believing that their country has been "stabbed in the back," long-term hopes for East-West stability can only suffer.

For the moment, Mr Yeltsin can probably ride out the storm. His remarkable physical recovery gives him an unexpected political initiative. In any case, the Nato setback may soon be overshadowed by a challenge far more immediate to Russian voters: the threat of a nationwide strike on Thursday by millions of workers unpaid for months. The strike could be a catalyst for other pent-up grievances, and violence is likely. The Government is particularly worried about 17 regions where the economic situation is especially bad and where opposition leaders are encouraging the strike.

Mr Yeltsin may try to intervene personally to mitigate the damage to his popularity inflicted in Helsinki. He must find a way to break the vicious circle of uncollected taxes and unpaid salaries and pensions. Unless the real grievances of millions of desperate workers can be assuaged, further reform will be thwarted. Too many Russians already associate privatisation with private plunder, capitalism with criminality.

Nato comes well down the list of the Russians' concerns, behind crime, unemployment and ethnic conflict. But the West should not gloat about using this window of opportunity to enlarge Nato while Russia is weak. Russians have long memories, a strong sense of their country's history and dangerous resentments. Mr Clinton may believe he won all he wanted in Helsinki. He must now redouble his efforts to prevent the Russians believing they lost too much.

## CLASS DISTINCTIONS

Two worlds of student life revealed by a new survey

Britain's universities boast undergraduates who are more than a degree apart. A new survey, which we report today, reveals an aristocracy alongside an impoverished rump. While the smart set heads for Latin America for the duration of the long vacation, the poor relations can look forward to a summer spent stacking shelves at the local supermarket. While Katherine has the fast car, personal computer and mobile phone, poor Darren survives on baked beans all term with an adverse effect on his social life. The enormous expansion of higher education has brought not a new egalitarianism but a fresh elitism, based on high technology possession.

This study rings true to those who have experience of modern campus life. There is barely room for the poor professor's ancient Mini Metro in car parks heaving with the Aston Martins owned by those they teach. Students read essays from their laptops. Lectures are constantly interrupted by the annoying chimes of mobile phones. Most students, of course, have none of these trinkets. But this only adds to the brazenness of those who do and who look forward with confidence to a starting salary comfortably in excess of their tutors'.

Was it not ever thus? The pre-war Oxford of *Brideshead Revisited* had far deeper and starker social divisions. Then the young

gentlemen would spend an easy life based around their dining societies, rarely even bothering to sit their final exams. Meanwhile, the grammar school boys would cluster in the libraries, seeking them out as much for warmth as wisdom.

At least today it is not impossible for the average student to improve his or her lot. Companies are increasingly keen to employ them during the vacation, not least as a means of ensuring future recruitment. The slow erosion of the student grant has persuaded most that such work is not beneath them. Most undergraduates seem to survive despite skirmishes with the bank manager.

Other aspects of the survey debunk long-established student myths. Lager, not LSD, remains the preferred external stimulant. Tastes in radio and television look distinctly conventional. And more students choose to read this newspaper than any other. Whatever expensive gadgets the students may or may not own, a decent degree and well-paid job at the end are common objectives. Some still reflect wistfully on the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s, but demonstrations now seem inefficient and low-tech compared with a protest on the Internet. The true icon to the 1990s university generation seems to be Bill Gates, not Che Guevara.

## Publication in the public interest

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Some of the arguments raised by *The Guardian's* publication of evidence to Sir Gordon Downey (reports, March 21 and 22) were tested in the High Court in a 1994 case. On that occasion the court attached overriding importance to the need to allow electors to debate an issue of public interest before rather than after an election.

Liverpool City Council had lost several million pounds after awarding a cable-laying contract to its own direct services organisation, despite warnings that it was ill-equipped for the task. The council commissioned accountants KPMG Peat Marwick to investigate. The *Liverpool Echo* learnt of the findings of KPMG's draft report, but was prevented from publishing them by an ex-parte injunction obtained by the firm, which the paper then challenged.

KPMG argued that it would be damaging to the individuals named in the report, and to its own professional interests, to allow anything other than the final report to be publicly debated. The newspaper pointed out that if the injunction stood the public would be denied the information until after the local elections, then some four weeks away.

Mr Justice Pill lifted the injunction, so that the findings could be "the subject of debate before the election". He commented:

There is a substantial sum of money involved, and the City Council elections are imminent. The pace at which the investigation has been conducted is not rapid.

... matters have not proceeded quickly. No good reason has been shown to me why the present stage should not have been reached some time ago. In my judgment the timescale is important in performing the balancing exercise, having regard to the imminence of the City Council elections.

... in my judgment, the public interest in publication ... outweighs the interests which the Liverpool City Council has in restraining publication. It further outweighs the public and private interests which the plaintiffs have and it outweighs those interests in combination.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE FRANKEL,  
Director,  
The Campaign for Freedom of Information,  
Suite 102, 16 Baldwin Gardens, ECI,  
March 22.

## Assisted places

From the Headmistress of The Mount School, York

Sir, Your leader of March 18, "A Girl's Best Chance", is very timely. Girls' public schools have indeed been pioneers in equal opportunities and thinking about the contribution women can make to society. Here, for instance, at The Mount Quaker School in the 1870s, girls were inspired to study astronomy by the radical socialist, Edward Carpenter, and took classes in geology. A debate on Home Rule electrified the school in 1888.

May I also extend the debate on the Assisted Places Scheme to embrace the role of Quaker schools, and others of like mind, which were founded in pursuance of "values" — those intangibles so warmly espoused by political parties.

These schools inculcate not just hard work and high endeavour but service, personal responsibility and initiative, an international outlook and respect for others. They are fee-paying because they could not otherwise exist — there is no state support available; but, thanks to bursaries and assisted places, their pupil body includes those with plenty of this world's goods and those with scarcely any. The loss of assisted places would merely restrict the intake, thus depriving a considerable body of children from experiencing the values of a Quaker school.

In many other areas of life we see bridges being built between the Lab-our Party and private enterprise: it is sad for those of us in education to see parallel bridges in our sector threatened with removal. It is difficult to un-

## Tories' hopes and Labour's record

From Miss Elizabeth J. Smith

Sir, It was heartening to read Magnus Linklater's considered piece ("How Scots Tories could surprise us", March 20) in the run-up to the election. He has maintained a commendable objectivity in his observations about the political parties in Scotland. It makes a pleasant change from the untrammelled bias from the pens of too many of his colleagues north of the border.

No one doubts that the Scottish Conservatives face a challenge, but neither should there be any doubt that they are in good heart, nor that their message is sinking in.

I for one would be happy to join Mr Linklater's betting friend in predicting that the "Tories in Scotland just might surprise us all".

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH J. SMITH  
(Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Edinburgh South),  
13 Mentone Gardens, Edinburgh 9,  
March 21.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, In his article (March 14) Matthew Parris states that "The Tories are heading for defeat". He goes on to argue that in such a case John Major should resist the pressure to resign immediately.

His article, however, is based on the presumption that it will only be the Parliamentary Conservative Party which will elect a new leader. Might I suggest that in the event of a defeat the whole of the Conservative Party would wish to participate in the election.

We know from your report (March 15) that "The Conservative Party is to press ahead with plans to change the rules for choosing its leader that would give party activists a vote for the first time". Any attempt to hold a leadership election on the old basis before the "grassroots" members of the party had decided to what extent they wished to be involved would, I feel sure, create strong and bitter resentment.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN E. STRAFFORD  
(Chairman, Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy),  
Perama, Fulmer Road,  
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,  
March 17.

derstand the logic of continued support for grant-maintained schools on one hand and denial of assisted-place funding on the other.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA J. WINDLE,  
Headmistress,  
The Mount School,  
Dalton Terrace, York,  
March 18.

From the President of the Girls' Schools Association

Sir, The advantages to girls of single-sex education are well attested, and it would be a grave pity if the abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme were to deny that option to girls from low-income families.

However, concern is now surfacing about the underachievement of boys. The relentless spread of coeducation may have contributed to this by polarising the sexes, suggesting to boys that academic achievement is "girly" and encouraging them in laddishness, to differentiate themselves as much as possible from their female classmates.

So girls' schools are possibly good for boys as well as girls.

Yours faithfully,  
JACQUELINE LANG,  
President,  
Girls' Schools Association,  
130 Regent Road, Leicester,  
March 19.

From the Headmaster of Nottingham High School

Sir, At a conference in London this week on the future of independent education (report, March 18) Mrs Margaret Hodge, shadow education spokeswoman, maintained that as-

## Foreign parts

From Mr Nicholas Bridge

Sir, In his travel feature on Russia ("You need an Olga to clear your path", Weekend, March 15) Alexander Chancellor managed to convey many of the aspects of "the Englishman abroad" which foreigners find so entertaining.

To take just one example, could I offer the radical suggestion that the reason people did not speak to him in English was because they were in fact Russian? I cannot help but recall how useful one or two words of Russian

## German map auction

From Mr Dan Clifton

Sir, Your report (March 20) the planned auction of German maps of Great Britain, dating from the Second World War, which were designed for use in an invasion.

Such original documents are obviously of great interest to members of the public and historians alike. What is interesting, however, is that unlike these documents recovered by a British soldier in Germany, many of our own official records concerning Germany's wartime activities in Britain

From Mr B. Stansfield

Sir, Linda Moule (letter, March 21) is right to invoke elderly Conservatives to remind first-time voters of the reality of life under a Labour government.

Oh for a return to those heady days of affordable prescription charges, dental care, eye tests, residential care for the elderly, secure caring help for the mentally ill, only half a million unemployed, pre-Beeching railway services in rural areas, substantially lower crime figures, etc. etc.

Yours faithfully,  
B. STANSFIELD,  
7 Borthwick Park, Orton,  
Wistow, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
March 21.

From Dr Kenneth E. C. Macaulay

Sir, Perhaps those good people who follow the advice of your correspondent Mrs Moule could also remind us of the meaning of the term "the NHS safe in our hands" when Mrs Major (report, March 20) is seen to give an award to a child who sold her toys to pay for her grandfather's cancer treatment.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH MACAULAY,  
3 Glamis Gardens,  
Dalgety Bay, Fife,  
March 21.

From Miss J. V. Morton

Sir, My father had a story of the canvasser in a 1930s general election being told bluntly by the householder: "I'm going to vote for Mr Baldwin. He promises nothing and he keeps his word."

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MORTON,  
May's House,  
Fritwell, Bicester, Oxfordshire,  
March 21.

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, The Hale-Bopp comet, like some of its historic predecessors, may presage some unexpected catastrophe. Perhaps Tony Blair should consult his astrologer as to whether he is more likely, come election day, to be hailed or bopped!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER GRAFTON,  
57 Padbrook,  
Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey,  
March 21.

## Tensions that built to Albania's crisis

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Much recent reporting of the Albanian crisis has suggested that the collapse of the fraudulent pyramid savings schemes is the main cause of resentment against President Sali Berisha. The problems of Albania go much deeper than that.

In 1995 we were members of a delegation to Albania sponsored by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. During that visit we met church leaders and aid workers to hear their concerns and in a personal meeting with the President we brought them to his attention.

"They included reports of human rights abuses, corruption among members of the Democratic Party, arbitrary decision-making by officials for personal gain, the lack of a legislative framework for the equal treatment of all Christians and Muslims, and concerns in advance of the 1996 Albanian elections (which we now know to be justified)."

Subsequently, we have been concerned by reports of Albanians being harassed and beaten up by members of the Shik (the Albanian secret police who replaced the former communist Sigurimi), which indicate a growing intolerance by President Berisha of plural political activity in the country.

We are anxious, therefore, that the international community support the cause of democratic and constitutional government in Albania and we hope they will back that support with economic aid and inward investment to provide Albanians with real employment prospects and the constitutional freedoms we take for granted.

If not, internal tensions will continue and Albanians will continue to become economic migrants in Greece, Italy and Germany or refugees on rusting hulks in the Adriatic. The danger to the entire Balkan region and the cost to the international community will then be incalculable.

Yours sincerely,  
\*ALWYN CAMBRENSIS,  
BRYAN OWEN  
(CCBI Balkans Working Group),  
G. R. SPARKES  
(Baptist Union of Great Britain),  
Bishop's House,  
St Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 OTW,  
March 21.

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I write in support of Lord Bethell's letter (March 17) about Berisha. In 1992 I was asked by the Council of Europe to lead a delegation to oversee the elections in Albania. We met Mr Berisha and formed a good opinion of him and we also went all over the country and were satisfied that the elections were both free and fair.

Recently Mr Berisha may have been unwise and unlucky, but he is not a bad man and I do not believe he should be castigated for all the chaos that now exists in Albania.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOKES,  
4 The Bradburys,  
Stratton Audley,  
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire,  
March 18.

## Doctor off duty

From Mrs Mary Stones

Sir, Your report (March 20) a campaign to discourage patients being in need of their GP over Easter.

No one in Stradbroke dared call Dr Drawer at weekends, and this was over 30 years ago. His successor was very surprised how peaceful it had been on his first duty Bank Holiday in the village.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY STONES,  
The Cottage Farm,  
Stradbroke, nr Eye, Suffolk,  
March 20.

## You've been warned

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, My local newspaper warns me that the Council for the Protection of Rural England is recommending that all those people who love the countryside should get out and enjoy its peace and tranquillity. To that end it is naming June 7 and 8 a National Picnic Weekend.

As my house is surrounded by fields and grassland in this remote part of the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, I fear June 9 cannot come soon enough.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House, Wildern,  
Andover, Hampshire,  
March 20.

## Home and away

From Mr Richard Lloyd

Sir, Further grounds for concern about standards of education are highlighted by your report (Sport, March 18) on the schools seven-a-sides at Rosslyn Park.

The team from Culford School was depleted when some of its players, on a journey from Suffolk to southwest London, managed to get lost in Hampshire. I trust the geography master will take immediate action, as and when they find their way back.

Yours faithfully,  
DAN CLIFTON,  
46 Handforth Road, SW9,  
March 20.

remain secret, more than 50 years later.

On the advice of the Public Record Office I recently applied to the Courts Service, an agency of the Lord Chancellor's Department, for the release of documents relating to the treatment and detention of wartime spies. Yet remarkably, despite the 30-year rule and the open government initiative, I was told the papers must remain secret. I find this hard to credit.

Yours sincerely,  
DAN CLIFTON,  
46 Handforth Road, SW9,  
March 20.







## OBITUARIES

## SIR JOHN FIGGESS

Sir John Figgess, KBE, CMG, Commissioner General for Britain, World Exposition, Osaka, 1968-70, and a director of Christie, Manson and Woods, 1973-82, died on March 20 aged 87. He was born on November 15, 1909.

A leading British authority on Japan, John Figgess and his work were involved with that country for nearly seventy years. He did secret work in Japan at the time of its invasion of China and during the build-up to the Second World War. He was involved with military intelligence in India and the postwar interrogations of Japanese war criminals. He had diplomatic service in Tokyo, culminating as Britain's alternate ambassador to the 1970 Osaka World Exposition.

Finally, he had another career as an art expert, spearheading Christie's penetration of the rich Japanese market. This owed much not only to his art expertise, but to his flawless Japanese.

Through all his contacts in Japan — government, business and members of the Imperial House — Figgess could claim his part in helping Japan to re-emerge as a peaceful ally. Never an apologist for Japan, he had a keen insight into what for many is still the baffling national character.

John George Figgess was born into a family of Ulster Protestants from Enniskillen. His father, an army officer, was killed in the First World War, and his mother struggled to send him to Whiting Middle School, Croydon.

Not being able to afford university fees, Figgess, wanting to learn Chinese, was recruited by British Intelligence and sent instead in 1933 to learn Japanese with a Tokyo family. His cover was "business".

It was a turbulent time. Japan was annexing Manchuria and defying international bodies. Although Figgess, with his great height and strong nose, was to Japanese eyes the archetypal "Western devil", he was well placed to observe and warn about the threat of Japanese expansionism.

The imminence of war in Europe

brought him home. He was commissioned in the Army Intelligence Corps, and attended staff college. After Pearl Harbor and Japan's occupation of most of South-East Asia, he was posted to thwart the Japanese threat to India. Based at Indian Army HQ at Delhi and then with Mountbatten's SE Asia Command, his unit deciphered intercepts of Japanese communications.

Figgess was particularly engrossed with the Victory for India Movement, whose leader Subhas Chandra Bose commanded the equivalent of two divisions in Burma on Japan's side. Although Bose's forces rarely got into action against the British, Figgess reported that his supporters believed he would return from Japan as a liberator. Instead he died in a Japanese air crash in Formosa, but the affair typically gave Figgess an earlier appreciation than most that the Raj could not continue after the war.

After 1945 he continued his Army intelligence career. He served for a year in the UK Liaison Mission to the American supreme, General Douglas MacArthur, whose task was both to occupy and to democratise the defeated enemy. Figgess had specific tasks such as interrogating Japanese commanders prior to their trial by the International Military Tribunal. But his greater purpose, as assistant military attaché until 1953, was to further Britain's interest, alongside the Americans, with the generation of men and women who were to rehabilitate Japan. Japan's first post-war Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, and his family were and remained prominent among Figgess's friends.

Although he later came to question the need for the atomic bombing of Japan, Figgess believed the American occupation succeeded as one of the most benevolent and enlightened transformations of any society. But, as close observer of Chairman Mao's rise to power and the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, he was less enchanted by MacArthur's actions, and the development of American policies. Amid loose talk of using atomic weapons to stem Communist advances, Figgess helped the Allies



Government to exercise restraint on Washington.

After Korea, as a staff officer at the War Office's MI Directorate, Figgess was mainly preoccupied with the French collapse in Indo-China, and the subsequent partition of Vietnam. But in 1950, promoted to full colonel, he was posted back to Japan as military attaché, a job in which he witnessed the birth of Japan's new Self Defence Forces, before in 1961 transferring, under Foreign Office aegis, to become information counsel- lor at the British Embassy.

For the next nine years, Figgess was the interpreter to Tory and Labour movements alike of the emergent

Japan. From 1968 to 1970 he was Britain's effective ambassador at the Osaka World Exposition. Such was his entertaining that the funds ran out. But with brilliant unorthodoxy he saw the solution in the 60 million Japanese visitors; he had his staff risk their careers to set up schemes to sell a specially struck British medallion, as well as ice-cream. With the huge funds generated, the entertainment fund was financed, and the aghast Treasury in London told only afterwards. It did not affect his well deserved appointment as KBE in 1969.

Amid the wreckage of Tokyo in 1946 Figgess met his future wife

Alette Idenburg, who had just left the liberated Dutch East Indies. They married in The Hague in 1948.

It was with her, in small-scale collecting at Tokyo junk shops, that Figgess developed the taste in oriental art that was to blossom in his later years. He became a self-taught scholar, particularly of early Chinese lacquer that have survived (if not in China) so significantly in Japan since 1600. He delighted in ceramics, too. In 1960 he co-authored with Fujio Koyama *Ten Thousand Years of Oriental Ceramics* and in 1973 *The Heritage of Japanese Ceramics*. Although he also contributed to specialist journals it is the one regret of his friends that he was too busy with living to write his memoirs.

In 1972 he entered the world of international art dealing with Christie's. The firm had recruited him for his extraordinary Japanese contacts but Figgess also brought to the work his enthusiasm for the hunt for sales. In one of his more extraordinary scoops, he was at one of Britain's grander country homes inspecting what the owners thought was saleable. Figgess, not particularly impressed with what he was shown, visited the bathroom and came across a piece that seemed to be used as an umbrella stand. He came down barely able to contain his excitement: it was, he announced to the startled owners, a very rare 14th-century cold-glazed copper red piece of early Chinese porcelain. At Christie's it went for a record price of 100,000 guineas.

Figgess was respected in a wide circle of curators and collectors, in London and the Far East, and was actively engaged right up to his death. But he was particularly distinguished as a member of the expert advisory council to the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art, attached to London University, and he was serving as president of the Oriental Ceramics Society when in 1990 he masterminded the *Porcelain for Palaces* exhibition at the British Museum — typically he had been invaluable in securing sponsorship by the Fujitsu company.

He is survived by his wife Alette, and two daughters.

## WILLIAM HILTON

William Hilton, Head of Astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation, 1959-62, died on March 6 aged 84. He was born on June 10, 1912.

A PIONEER among British aerospace engineers, Bill Hilton was the first to use the term "the sound barrier" when explaining his work on supersonic aerodynamics to a journalist in the (aerodynamically speaking) far-off times of the 1930s. This was the time when the biplane still ruled supreme in RAF operational squadrons and Mach 1 was a concept smacking more of the novels of H.G. Wells than of anything likely to be achieved by a flesh-and-blood aviator. Hilton was in the forefront of ramjet and rocket development from the war years until the early 1960s when Britain voluntarily (and needlessly) gave up its commanding position in the field of space technology.

Thereafter, his work was concentrated on the design of satellites to which he made contributions which are still acknowledged today.

A Londoner born and bred, William Frank Hilton went from Finchley County School to the Royal College of Science where he read physics, and then to Imperial College, where, in 1935, he gained his PhD with a thesis on *Photography of Aircraft Shock Waves*.

In 1935 he joined the National Physical Laboratory where he took charge of the 12-inch square high-speed wind tunnel. By 1942 he was running it at supersonic speeds to test guided rockets, aircraft and ramjets. In 1943, using a 20-inch by 8-inch flexible-walled, high-speed wind tunnel he had designed and built himself at NPL, he studied wing body interference at supersonic speeds and in the following year investigated the aerodynamics of wind tunnel models of the Miles E24/43 supersonic aircraft.

An Air Ministry project, to be handled by Miles Aircraft, the E24/43 was the first manned supersonic aircraft project in this country and became known as the Miles M52 Supersonic Aircraft. This was advanced work at a time when the fastest British military aircraft in squadron service were still piston engined and were capable of little more than 400mph.

In the event, though no complete aircraft was ever built, Miles constructed a full-scale mock-up of the fuselage. A flying model was also built, a rocket-powered example being air-launched from a de Havilland Mosquito. But the Government subsequently decided that Britain would not build a manned supersonic aircraft, and terminated the M52 project. It was only after the Americans had broken the sound barrier through Chuck Yeager and the air-launched, rocket-powered Bell X-1 that the British supersonic aircraft programme was pursued afresh.

Other wartime work Hilton did at the National Physical Laboratory involved the development of the "bouncing bomb" used by the Dambusters' squadron against the Ruhr dams. He also advised on the Mulberry Harbour, the great artificial ports which were constructed from old ships, steel girders and masses of concrete, to receive the Allied invasion forces and supplies into the Normandy beachhead after D-Day.

After the war Hilton's advanced research on ramjets led to his secondment in 1946 to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. At the university's applied physics laboratory he was responsible for wind tunnel work on the Bumble Bee ramjet project. In 1954 he published *High Speed Aerodynamics*, which became a

standard reference work on the subject.

From 1950 onwards, his work was on rockets and guided weapons. Joining Armstrong Whitworth, he was the chief aerodynamicist on the Sea Slug ship-to-air missile project — the Navy's first — for which he built a variable wind density tunnel.

In 1959 he was appointed head of astronautics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation's advanced projects group. There, his 12-man team made the first studies to be undertaken in this country of communications satellites, focusing on a system of low elliptical orbit satellites to maximise payload. Seeing the economic advantage, he proposed the use of the 63 degree inclined elliptical orbit for communications satellites in the northern hemisphere. This was recognised by scientists in the Soviet space programme and the Molniya satellites use this orbit.

In 1961 joint proposals for a communications satellite programme were put to the British Government by Hawker Siddeley and the French aerospace company Sereb, but they were not looked on with favour. Through its rejection of this opportunity to enter the multi-million dollar communications satellite industry, and its failure to capitalise on the highly-effective British rocket technology exemplified by the Blue Streak and Black Knight rockets, the Government turned its back on space — and



squandered a huge investment. Hawker Siddeley, recognising the Government's lack of interest in its space projects, closed down its aerodynamics section in 1962. Hilton and his valuable team of specialists were made redundant.

In 1963 Hilton became secretary of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and helped to found the Academy of Astronautics. In 1967 he served as assistant to the technical director of the British Aircraft Corporation. As such, he went to the United States as senior British representative on the team at Hughes Aircraft which designed the Intelsat 4 communications satellite.

One of his interests was the search for the existence of other life forms in the cosmos and he was associated with the IAF study group connected with this. He attended every meeting of the group, in whatever part of the world they were held, and only last year gave a paper at its congress in Beijing.

Hilton will be remembered as an inspirational leader in his field. The aerodynamic configurations of the re-entry vehicles he proposed in 1960 are very similar to those in use today. He continued to produce studies on space flight.

Bill Hilton enjoyed a wide range of hobbies ranging from ice-skating, ballroom dancing and skiing to playing the ukulele and collecting stamps. He is survived by his wife Joan, and by a son and two daughters.

## TONY ZALE

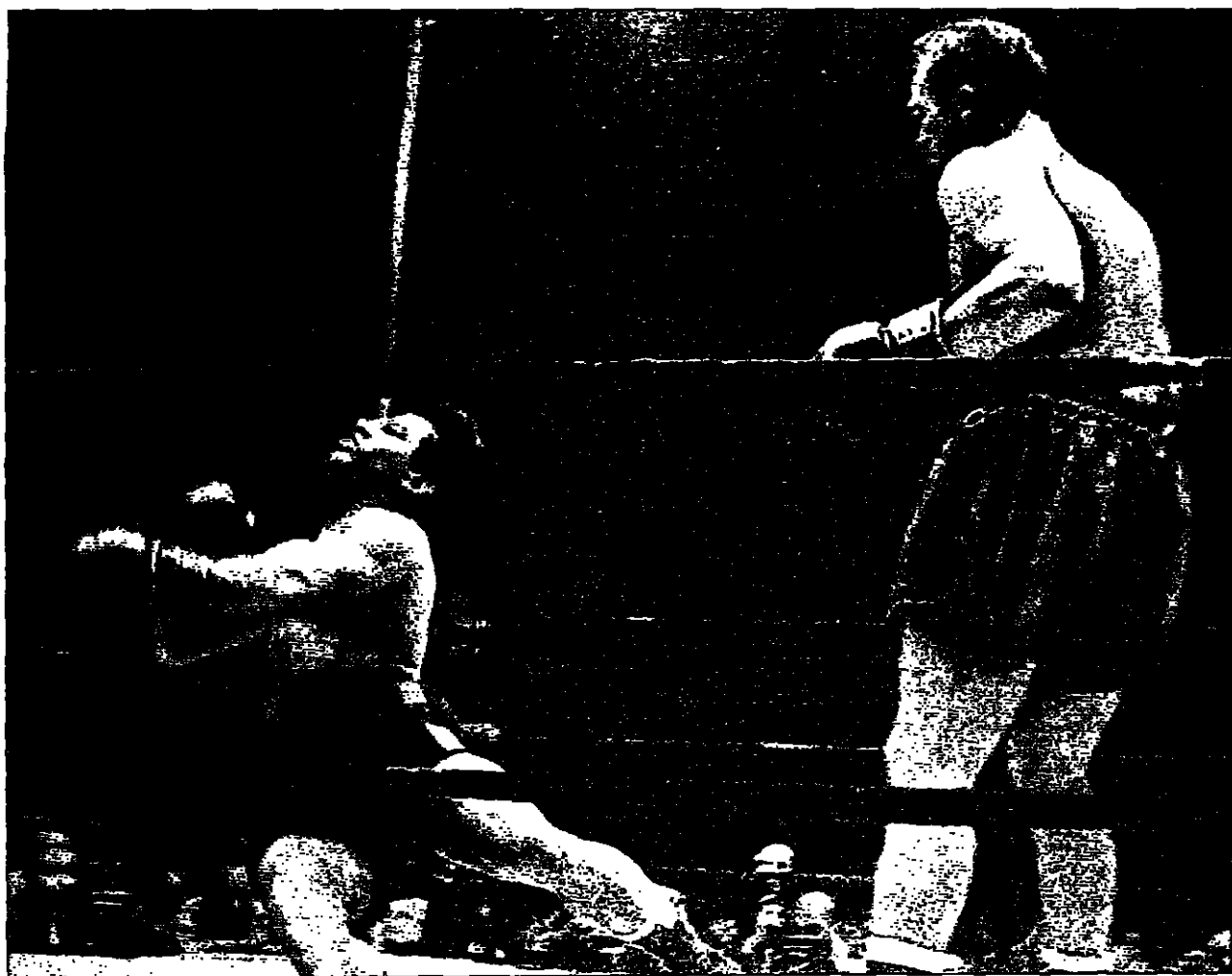
Tony Zale, world middleweight boxing champion, 1940-48, died in Portage, Indiana, on March 20 aged 83. He was born on May 29, 1913.

WHENEVER Tony Zale and his great competitor, Rocky Graziano, stepped through the ropes for a night's fist business, the result was sure to be one of those "slugfests" so beloved of American fight fans. The pair fought three torrid world championship battles in as many years — 1946, 1947 and 1948 — none of which required reference to the score card to adjudicate the result. All three are regarded as being classics of sheer ferocity in an era rich with middleweights — a division which has always provided the most exciting conjunction of speed, skill and punching power.

Though he was given a four-year "rest" from the ring while he served in the US Navy during the Second World War, nothing was ever made easy for Zale. He fought his way from an Indiana steelmill to a world title against some of the best men to have graced the ring at the weight, and defended it against a succession of tough fighters who were hungry to tear the world crown from his head.

Compared with today's carefully managed world championship boxing scene, in which fighters and their managers waltz cautiously around each other to secure the most lucrative of the pickings from the four or more titles which exist at each weight, the work of men like Zale seems almost suicidal. On his way to the title, nine or ten bouts a year against top opposition were meat and drink to him. Even after he had become established as champion he was fighting half a dozen times a year.

Of his three title fights



Down and out: Rocky Graziano heads for the canvas in the final moments of his third and last title fight with Zale

against Graziano he won the first and the last. It was only after that — by then in his 35th year — that he finally surrendered his world title to the up-and-coming French-Algerian Marcel Cerdan.

He was born Anton Florian Zaleski, of Polish immigrant stock, in the steel town of Gary, Indiana, where he began his working life in a rolling mill. It was his background, combined with his awesome ability to soak up punishment as well as dish it

out, that earned for him his sobriquet "Man of Steel" when he took up boxing.

As a boy he fought as an amateur, winning the Golden Gloves lightweight championship of his native state in 1931. Turning professional in 1934 he embarked on what was in those days the very hard road that had to be travelled before a boxer put himself into a position as a contender for championship honours. In his first year as a pro he fought an astonishing 21 contests, losing

five but establishing a reputation for being a fighter who "when he hits them, they stay hit".

The pay for such an apprenticeship was derisory and for one entire year, 1936, he had to return to the steelmill in Gary, Indiana, to earn a realistic living. But he was back in the ring the following year, punching all contenders out of the way, and early in 1940 he was matched with the National Boxing Association middleweight champion, Al

Hostak. Winning on points in ten rounds, he was rematched with Hostak later in the year, this time in a title fight. He knocked out Hostak in 13 rounds, but full recognition for the undisputed world title had to wait until the following year when he beat the New York State Athletic Commission's champion, Georgie Abrams.

Soon after that, he joined the US Navy and it was an even more daunting boxing ethos he returned to when he finally

cast off his uniform in 1946. By this time the menacing figure of Rocky Graziano, a street tearaway and criminal whose career had not been interrupted by the war, was astride the middleweight division.

The ring-rusty Zale had a number of warm-up fights before tackling Graziano at the Yankee Stadium, New York, on September 27, 1946. Zale won this, the first of three ferocious encounters, knocking his man out with a left hook to the jaw in the sixth, although he had himself been on the floor earlier in the bout. On their meeting again, in Chicago on July 16, 1947, this verdict was reversed. Graziano, seemingly on the verge of defeat, suddenly producing a vicious counter-attack to knock Zale out in the sixth and take his crown.

Public opinion, which still counted for something, however little, in those days, demanded a decider, and a third battle took place in Newark, New Jersey, on June 10, 1948. In a short but explosive contest in which the two men stood toe-to-toe raining blows on each other, Zale finally knocked out Graziano in the third, to regain his title.

The end of his career was not far away. Three months later he defended again, against the European champion Marcel Cerdan in Jersey City. His gruelling career had taken its toll, and after 12 relentless rounds he was finally knocked out. Thankfully, he had the sense to retire at that point, avoiding that awful twilight of decline which is the fate of so many fighters who do not, or cannot, quit.

In retirement Zale continued as a boxing coach for organisations such as the Catholic Youth Organisation in Chicago. His wife Philomena predeceased him, and he is survived by two daughters.

## Church news

Recent appointments include:  
The Rev Garth Barber, priest-in-charge, All Hallows, Twickenham and Chaplain, Richmond upon Thames College (London), to be Chaplain to the University of East Anglia (Norwich).  
The Rev Timothy Coleman, curate-in-charge, St Peter and St Paul, Hastings, and St John the Evangelist, Hellingly (Chichester), to be Vicar, St Peter, Aldborough (Hants).  
The Rev David Court, curate, Kinson (Salisbury), to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Norwich.  
The Rev Peter Edwards, Vicar, Christ the King, Salford, to be Rector, St Mary, Newington (Southwark).  
The Rev Alan Fitch, CA, diocesan community and race relations adviser and curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Longleaves (Gloucester), to be Vicar, All Saints & St Thomas, Douglas (Sodor & Man).  
The Rev Simon Foster, curate, Consett, to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham).

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain, and Director of Ordinands, Royal Navy, to be Rector, St Dunstan, Chesham (Southwark).  
The Rev Charles Hall, Vicar, Stapleford, and Rural Dean of Beeston (Southwell), to be Team Rector, Theford Team Ministry (Norwich).  
The Rev Duncan Harris, recently with Missions to Seamen, Cyprus, to be Port Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Hull (York).  
The Rev David Hart, Chaplain, Loughborough University, to be Chaplain, Whitecliffs College (Southwark).  
The Rev Brian Hurst, Vicar, Holy Spirit, Denton, to be also acting Rural Dean of Newcastle West.  
The Rev Nigel Lacey, curate, All Saints, Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Assistant Priest, St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park (Birmingham).  
The Rev Jonathan Lawson, curate, Usworth Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar, Usworth Team Ministry, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham), and All Angels, Sulgrave (Durham).

The Rev Roy McCullough, Vicar, St Matthew with Holy Trinity, Buncles, who is to be appointed Vicar, Walsley Dale and Salinebury, to be also an honorary canon of Blackburn Cathedral.  
The Rev Mark Norris, curate, St Barnabas, Rye, to be Curate, St Helen, St Helen (Liverpool).  
The Rev Christopher Pearson, curate, St Peter, Streatham, to be Vicar, St Agnes, Kennington Park (Southwark).  
The Rev Paul Rayner, Rector, St Andrew, with St Peter, South Shoebury, with Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Loughborough (Leicestershire).  
The Rev Adrian Robbins-Cole, curate, St Stephen South, Dulwich, to be Vicar, Holy Cross, Maresfield Park (Southwark).  
The Rev Nigel Sayer, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Streatham, to be Assistant Chaplain, Greenwald, Healthcare NHS Trust (Southwark).  
The Rev Nigel Sayer, Vicar, St Paul, Bristol, to be Kingston Area Mission Team Member and Diocesan Adult Education and Training Officer (Southwark).

The Rev Mark Tanner, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Southwell, to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Southwell, and discontinue as part-time Research officer to the Bishop of Southwell.  
The Rev Rebecca Watts, Chaplain, Wadhams College, Oxford, and curate, Oxford, St Mary the Virgin (North), to continue as Chaplain of Wadhams College only.  
The Rev Dr Samuel Wells, curate, Cherry Hinton with Teverton (Ely), to be Priest-in-charge, St Elizabeth, Earlsfield (Norwich).  
Canon Anthony Wilds, Vicar, St Mary, Andover with Fawcett (Wiltshire), to be Team Rector, Southill Team Ministry (St Albans) (Birmingham).  
The Rev Martin Lloyd Williams, curate, Bath Walkate, to be Rector, St Michael with St Paul, Bath.  
Withdrawal of acceptance:  
The Rev Norman Swinson, Rector, Jarrold Grange (Norfolk), has withdrawn, for health reasons, his acceptance of the post of Priest-in-charge, plurality of Cockfield and Lynesack, same diocese.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.  
DEFEAT OF THE SIKHS.  
BY EXTRAORDINARY  
EXPRESS

We delayed publication to the latest possible hour at the dispatch of last steamer, in expectation of receiving full and authentic tidings of a reverse said to have occurred near Ludianah, but obtained none. Sir Harry Smith's division proceeded according to orders about the 19th, to march in the direction of Ludianah to reinforce the division under Colonel Gudgey, considered too weak to be opposed to the formidable body of Sikhs then entrenched in the neighbourhood.

The force in all amounted to nearly 8,000 men. On the 20th an express arrived, intimating that the Ludianah regiments were hemmed in... The greater portion of the troops were encamped between Budeval and Ludianah — the 36th Native Infantry and Nusseer's battalion being alone near the town. The Sikhs now apprehending an attack, in turn abandoned Budeval, and withdrew to a more advantageous position. Colonel Wheeler's brigade joined on the 25th, and a few days being allowed for rest and arrangements, it was resolved that an attack by the united force should be made on the 28th.

## ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1846

The first Sikh War (1845-46) ended with a treaty at Lahore on March 9. The action described here took place in February. The second war (1848-49) saw the defeat of the Sikhs and the annexation of the Punjab.

The Sikh force had originally consisted of 20,000 men with 56 guns; on the 26th they were reinforced by the addition of 12 guns and 4,000 men — all regular well-disciplined troops. The strength of their position was the village of Ullsewal.

On the 28th the united divisions, consisting of 12,000 men and 32 guns, marched at daybreak from Budeval in the direction of the enemy's camp. At the village of Churek we first got sight of the enemy. They advanced some distance beyond their entrenchments towards our division, and commenced a heavy cannonade on our troops. The village of Aleewal, the important point, was now

stormed by our troops. The whole line now pressed on and stormed the batteries everywhere, carrying the guns at the bayonet's point.

Charge after charge of our Cavalry broke and cut up the enemy as they endeavoured to rally. The 16th Lancers and 3d Cavalry suffered most severely; of the former 110 were killed or wounded in charging the enemy's guns, and in striving, and that most successfully, to break a square of a Khalsa regiment, which was quickly dispersed or cut to pieces. In this latter service 200 of the Irregular Horse, under Captain Hill, and 700 of the Shekawattie Brigade, eminently distinguished themselves.

The Sikhs fought gallantly, and their guns were excellently served; they opened at 10, and were not silenced till 1 o'clock — many of the artillerymen remaining till bayoneted at their posts. By noon the enemy were broken; they were driven by repeated charges of cavalry and infantry into, and across, the river. Many were drowned in attempting to escape.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops; the artillery was precise, steady, and destructive; the cavalry charges brilliant; and the infantry as determined, steady, and orderly, as if a ball-practice parade, and not a pitched battle, had been in hand...



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technology you'll understand  
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